KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME

4

KAMOME
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WITCH HAT ATELIER

♦

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Chapter 18

FLUTTER

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FWSH

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WHMP

WHMP

FWSH

FWSH

TMP

SHWUSH

MATING SEASON FOR THE SCALE-WOLVES.

IF THEY DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO FORM PAIRS, THEY COULD KEEP THEIR ARMOR ON ALL THE TIME.

...ALL TO PROTECT THEIR NEWBORNS FROM INJURY.

THEY SLAM INTO EACH OTHER, KNOCKING OFF THEIR STIFF PLAITSCALE FUR...

I FIGURED I HAD NOTHING TO LEARN FROM HER.

INCH

BUT IF SHE PROPERLY MASTERS THE PRINCIPLES...

I BELIEVED OUTSIDERS TO BE IGNORANT—

THAT NOTHING WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THEIR COMING INTO CONTACT WITH MAGIC.

I DID IT! HOORAY!

...WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL BE LEFT BETWEEN HER AND ANY OF US?

THANK YOU! BUT...

YOUR DRAWING HAND HAS GROWN MUCH STEADIER WITH TIME, COCO.

SPLENDID WORK!

YA

AY!

IT SEEMS TO ME...

Like this one...or this other one...

HRM

MMM

...THERE STILL AREN'T MANY SPELLS I FEEL I CAN DRAW WELL.

WHENEVER I'M IN A PINCH, I ALWAYS END UP USING THE SAME FEW.

...AND DRAWN WITHOUT A THOUGHT...

...THAT SPELLS WHICH ARE EASY TO USE...

...EMPLOYED CLEVERLY, WITH FEW FAILURES...

...MIGHT JUST BE YOUR *SPECIALTY.*

I HAVE...

...A SPECIALTY?

INDEED.

LOOK CLOSELY, AND I THINK YOU'LL FIND...

...THAT THE SPELLS YOU OFTEN USE INCLUDE MANY STRAIGHT LINES.

COMPARED TO YOUR CURVES, YOUR STRAIGHT LINES RUN BOLD AND TRUE.

...HELPS YOU FEEL SURE OF YOURSELF...

...AT TIMES WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.

FINDING A TYPE OF MAGIC YOU'RE GOOD AT...

IN FACT, I SEEM TO RECALL YOU SHOWING ME SOMETHING SIMILAR WHEN WE FIRST MET.

WHEN UNCERTAINTY STRIKES, TRY REMINDING YOURSELF OF YOUR STRENGTHS OUT LOUD.

I'M GOOD AT DRAWING STRAIGHT LINES!

STRAIGHT LINES ARE MY SPECIALTY!

...IS STRAIGHT LINES.

MY SPECIALTY ...

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

LINES ARE GONNA BE MY BEELINE TO SUCCESS!

HERE I GO!

NOW THAT I KNOW, IT'S TIME TO PRACTICE!

THWUMP-

TH-THWUMP

WHO KNOWS? YOU MAY EVEN DISCOVER ANOTHER SPECIALTY!

ATTENTION IS MUCH BETTER SPENT ON ONES YOU CANNOT YET DRAW OR OTHERWISE WOULDN'T THINK TO USE.

YOU NEEDN'T FOCUS ON THE SPELLS YOU'RE ALREADY GOOD AT. THEY'LL IMPROVE NATURALLY.

OOOKAY...

RIGHT?

こんもり
HEAP

...LOOK EVEN MORE...

...INCREDIBLE THAN THEY DID BEFORE.

I'M JUST STARTING TO REALIZE THAT SEALS...

...THE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT THINGS BEING DONE.

...IT FEELS LIKE I'M ABLE TO UNDERSTAND...

EVER SINCE I LEARNED ABOUT HOW THEY'RE CONSTRUCTED...

WANNA LOOK AT THEM TOGETHER?

THEY JUST FEEL SO INCREDIBLY BEYOND ME...

FIND SOME NEW VOCABULARY FOR PRAISING THINGS.

THE MAGIC INCREDIBLE PEOPLE DRAW IS INCREDIBLE ...

Oh, wow...

THIS IS INCRED-IBLE.

HAAAH... INCRED-IBLE...

Haaah...

Wooow...

I LIKE DRAWING SPELLS...

...BUT I DON'T LIKE LOOKING AT THEM.

NO.

YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD.

I'M SURE.

YOU MIGHT LEARN SOME-THING!

NO? ARE YOU *SURE?*

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

SKRTTT

I SAID I *DON'T WANT TO LOOK!!*

SIMPLY HAVING YOUR HANDS PRACTICE THE ACT OF DRAWING ISN'T *STUDYING* MAGIC, RICHEH.

OBSERVING REMARKABLE SPELLS AND ANALYZING HOW THEY'RE CONSTRUCTED TRAINS OUR EYES TO—

RICHEH?

KRSHIIN

SWAT

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?!

CLASP

I CANNOT CONDONE THE CASTING OF MAGIC IN ANGER.

IT'S TERRIBLY DANGER-OUS!

...

SN

AP

WHACK

HEY!

DASH

RICHEH! WAIT!

...AND EARS PLUGGED TO TEACHERS' WORDS...

...PROGRESS STAYS FOREVER A STRANGER.

SHIFT

A PITY. WITH EYES CLOSED TO GUIDANCE...

OLRUGGIO

...

P-TMP!

RICHEH!

HUSH

RICHEH?

HUH?

I...
I WANNA APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER...

I...

CREAK

!

PEEK ヒョコッ

HM?

SQUI-THNK ぴちこん

SQUI-THNK ぴちこん

SHE'S NOT HERE?

BUT I'M SURE I SAW HER RUN BACK TO HER ROOM.

!

HOP
ZW

ZW?
HOP

BRUSH-BUDDY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?

NOD

NOD

NOD

NOD

NOD

ACK!

HEY!

WHY ARE YOU JUMPING INTO—

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

WAS THAT POT SOME KIND OF CONTRAP-TION?

PWU

FF

BRUSH-BUDDY?

S-
SORRY.

I WAS JUST FOLLOWING THE BRUSH-BUDDY, AND...

I NEVER SAID YOU COULD COME IN HERE.

WHOA...

IT DOESN'T HAVE A NAME YET.

I MADE IT UP MYSELF.

THAT SPELL UP THERE IS LOVELY.

IT'S LIKE THE RIBBONS ARE MADE OUT OF CRYSTAL.

They bring joy to my eyes!

They're so pretty!

Wooow...

YOU HAVE A NOVEL WAY OF OBSERVING THEM.

WOW! THAT'S INCRED-IBLE!

YOUR VERY OWN SPELL?!

...LIKE THIS SPELL!

I REALLY...

...

WHOA! WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT FROM BELOW, IT GETS EVEN *MORE* SPARKLY!

So pretty!

I love it!

It's so great!

REALLY?!

I'VE GOT A BUNCH OF THEM ANYWAY.

TWIRL

SPRING

IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE ONE.

HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

...

I FEEL SO LUCKY... THANK YOU!

I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT MAGIC...

...SO TO ME, BOOKS ABOUT IT ARE FASCINATING.

WHY DON'T YOU LIKE LOOKING AT BOOKS?

I LIKE IMAGINING WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ...

...WERE BEHIND EACH SPELL, AND WHAT DROVE THEM TO CREATE IT.

I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN MY OWN SPELLS.

AND THEN YOU'RE BEING MADE TO DRAW STUFF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT.

STUFF THAT ISN'T YOUR OWN.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT.

YOU START READING, AND NEXT...

...SOMEONE'S TELLING YOU TO COPY WHAT'S IN THERE.

THIS...

...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

RICHEH...?

BEFORE RICHEH CAME HERE...

I REFUSE TO LET MINE BE TAINTED.

I DON'T NEED ANY-ONE ELSE'S MAGIC.

THAT STUBBORNNESS IS HER SHIELD— HER WAY OF PROTECTING HERSELF.

...SHE WAS STUDYING UNDER ANOTHER WITCH. BUT SHE BROKE OFF THAT APPRENTICESHIP.

PEOPLE...

...AREN'T QUITE AS STRAIGHT-FORWARD AS SPELLS, ARE THEY?

SHE'S LIKE A SCALEWOLF, SURROUNDED BY LONG, PLAITED SCALES.

IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW CLOSELY TO APPROACH.

A NEW CREATION OF MINE. "SNUG-STONES."

WHAT'RE THESE?

STONES?

CATCH.

FLING

KEEP ONE OF THESE IN BED WITH YOU...

...AND YOU'LL SLEEP...

...WARM AND TOASTY, FROM HEAD TO TOE.

SNUGSTONE

A CRYSTALLIZED DEPOSIT MODIFIED TO RADIATE A FAINT, PLEASANT WARMTH. KEEPS ONE TOASTY IN ANY ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT THE NEED FOR AN OPEN FLAME.

D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I'M ONLY DOING IT FOR WORK.

I NEED SOME OPINIONS ABOUT HOW EFFECTIVE THEY ARE BEFORE I START SELLING THEM.

Hahaha!

Yes, yes. Of course.

SURE. LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.

MUCH OBLIGED.

SWISH

SWISH

IT'S JUST FOR PEACE OF MIND, BUT GO AHEAD AND SHARE ONE WITH EACH OF THE GIRLS.

YOUR SPELLS ARE ALWAYS SO THOUGHT-FUL.

MUCH MORE ELOQUENT THAN YOUR WORDS.

FOUR FOR THE APPREN-TICES...

...AND ONE FOR YOU.

I THINK YOU GAVE ME ONE TOO MANY.

THERE ARE FIVE HERE.

!

THAT'S YOUR JOB, RIGHT?

SHOW 'EM THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP. YOU KNOW, TEACH BY EXAMPLE.

...I SHALL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

...

WHIRRRR

CLICK

HEY, MASTER. I'M BACK.

AGOTT!

?

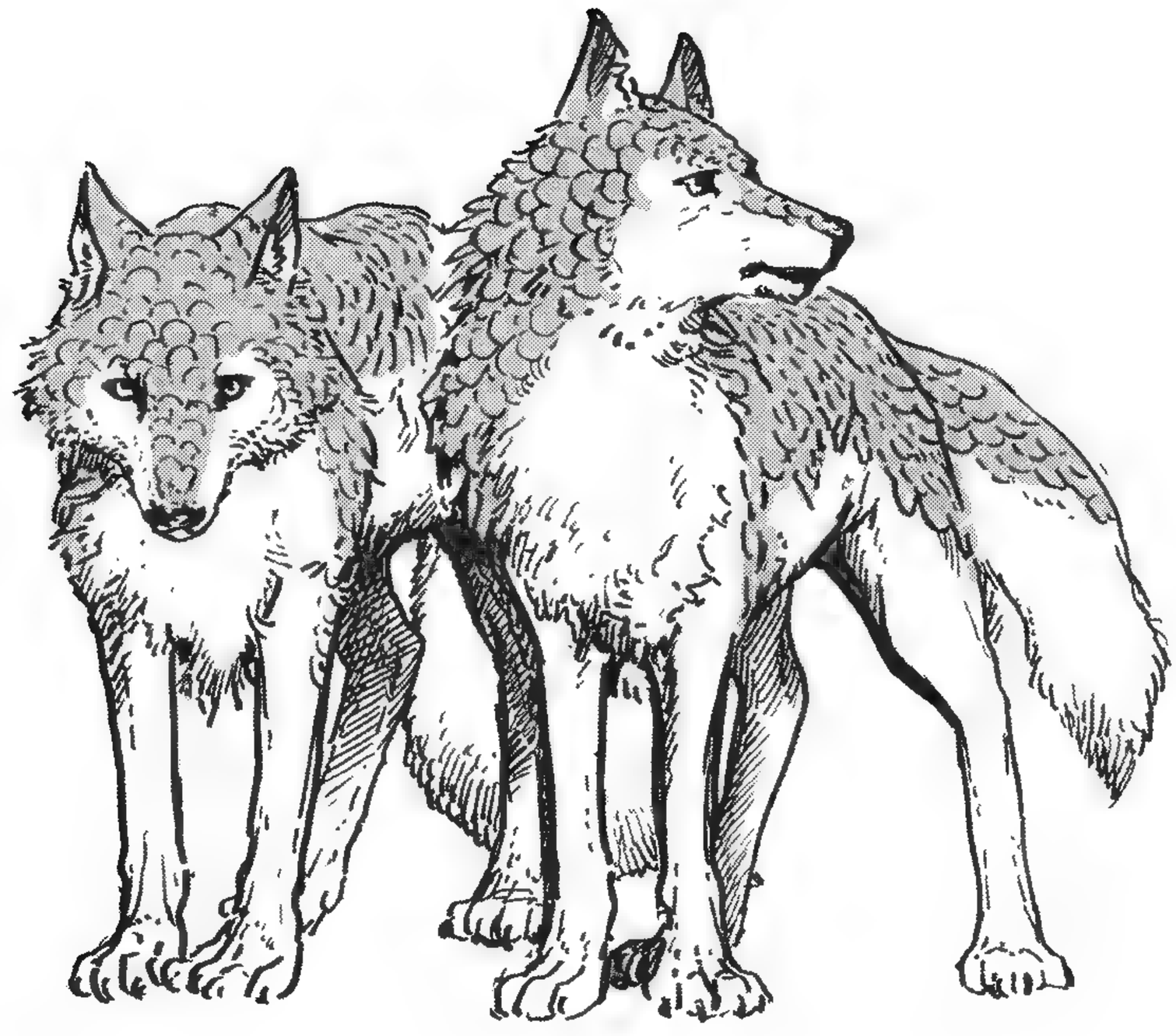
WHAT PERFECT TIMING!

!!

WE'RE RECEIVING A LETTER.

Chapter 18 ♦ End

Witch Hat Atelier



Chapter 19

STREEEEETCH

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A RIBBON OUT OF CRYSTAL?

PUUULL

CRUMPLE

HMPH!

THAT'S AN ADORABLE SPELL, RICHEH-LETTE.

LOOK, RILI.

OVER THERE.

FLING

BOUNCE

BOUNCE

HUG

RILI? WHAT IS IT?

IT'S ROLLY-WOLLY.

AND SHINY-WHINY.

SO PWETTY!

I HOPE YOU NEVER CHANGE, RICHEH.

JUST STAY THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.

KNOW WHAT? YOUR BIG BROTHER ...

...LOVES THE WAY YOUR SPELLS ARE JUST LIKE YOU.

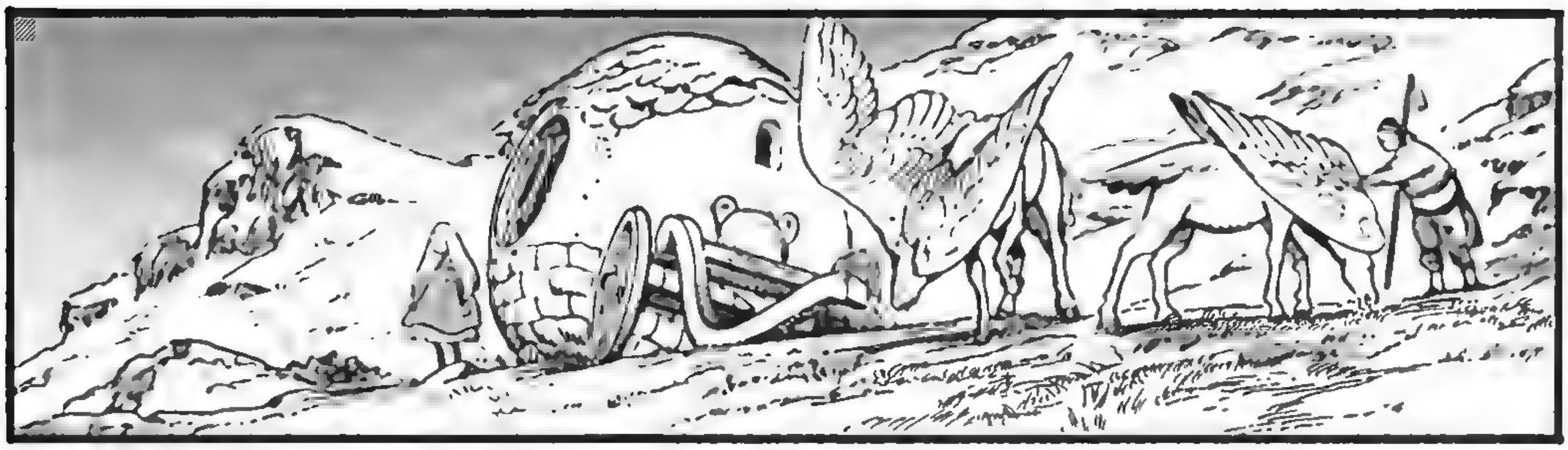
AREN'T YOU GONNA LOOK AT MY SPELLS ANYMORE?

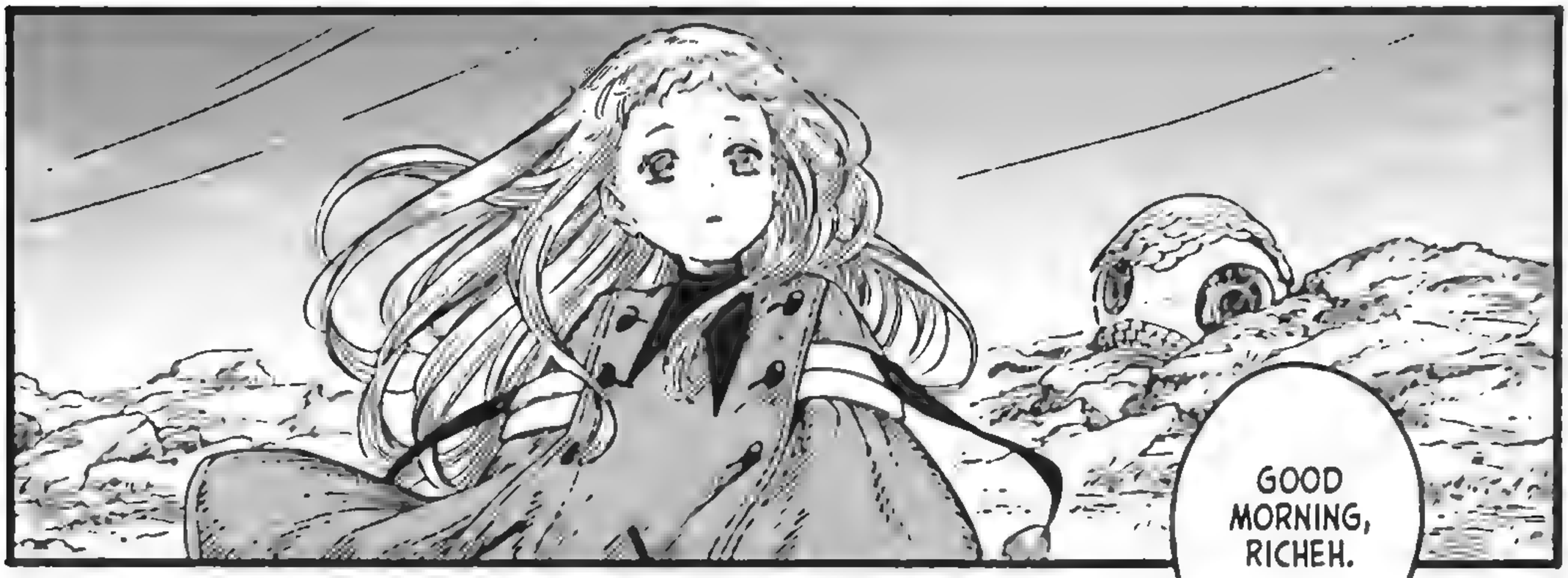
RILI? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I WAS DREAMING ...

NO, RILI...

DON'T GO...




GOOD MORNING, RICHEH.

PERHAPS YOU COULD AWAKEN THE OTHERS.
THE DAWN IS NIGH.

ENTRANCE OF THE SERPENT-BACK CAVE, CAPE ROMONON

I SLEPT *SOOOO* SOUNDLY!

NRRRGH! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

DON'T FRET, AGOTT.

I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO SLEEP WELL.

It works!

IT'S ALL THIS SNUGSTONE'S FAULT! IT'S SO WARM AND TOASTY!!

I WAS *SUPPOSED* TO PRACTICE RIGHT UP TO THE LAST MINUTE!

IN FACT, I'D SAY IT'S BETTER IF YOU'VE STILL A FEW SPOTS LEFT TO POLISH WHEN THE TIME TO ACT IS AT HAND.

SHHP

...THE THOUGHT THAT ONE COULD HAVE DONE MORE ALWAYS LINGERS.

NO MATTER HOW PREPARED ONE IS...

SCARF

SCARF

SCARF

SCARF

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE A NEXT TIME.

DO AS SUCH, AND YOU'LL BE READY TO DO MORE WHEN THE NEXT TIME COMES.

YOU NEED ONLY BE AS YOU ARE NOW.

AH, WHAT SPIRIT!

I'M OF THE HOUSE OF ARKLAUM!

I'M GONNA PASS THIS IN ONE SHOT.

MY APPRENTICE EUINI...

...HAS ALREADY FAILED *TWICE.*

THAT'S TWICE WE'VE HAD TO WAIT THE FULL YEAR TO REAPPLY.

A DIFFERENCE OF NIGHT AND DAY FROM MY LITTLE DISAPPOINTMENT HERE. HE JUST CAN'T PASS THIS TEST!

LORD KUKROW ...!

AN APPRENTICE ISN'T SOME ...

...THING WITH PARTS TO BE TRADED!

...WITH THAT OF A DAUGHTER OF THE ESTEEMED HOUSE OF ARKLAUM!

MY, WOULD I LIKE TO SWAP HIS DRAWING HAND...

TRUDGE

TRUDGE

TRUDGE

I MUST INSIST THAT YOU REFRAIN—

UM! IT'S FINE! REALLY!

THAT'S THE DEVIL OF IT, ISN'T IT?

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN SEND IN FOR *REPAIRS*, EITHER.

I'M A POOR EXCUSE FOR AN APPRENTICE... ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR MASTER KUKROW.

AND...

IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR ALWAYS MESSING UP!

WHAT MY MASTER SAYS IS ALL TRUE.

AH, I'VE KEPT YOU ALL WAITING. APOLOGIES.

AH...

UM... EUINI?

REALLY, I FEEL TERRIBLE, 'CAUSE HE'S ALWAYS BEING CRITICIZED, 'CAUSE I'M SUCH A WORTHLESS APPRENTICE, AND I KNOW THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE ME WILL EVER END UP AS A HALF-DECENT WITCH, AND—

COMB

COMB

COMB

COMB

TA-DAH

JOLT

OUR NEAREST WINDOWWAY IS CRUMBLING APART.

AND I ENDED UP HAVING TO WALK ALL THE WAY HERE.

PWEE...!

IT'S A GIANT, TALKING BRUSH-BUDDY!

LEAN

BUT OBSERVE CAREFULLY ...

...AND YOU'LL FIND THAT THIS IS, IN FACT, A TRUE-BLUE WITCH!

COCO, YOUR FACE IS *GLEAMING!*

OOH! LOOK AT THAT!

IT'S A MIRROR CLOAK OF BORROW-SHADE.

A CONTRAPTION THAT, WHEN WRAPPED AROUND THE BODY, PRESENTS THE ILLUSION OF ANY BEAST ENCOUNTERED.

FWISH

...WERE FORBID-DEN?!

BUT I THOUGHT TRANSFOR-MATIONS ...

I AM HERE TODAY TO PROCTOR THE SECOND TEST.

AND I AM ALAIRA! IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU.

Q.

...?

I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT *ALL* YOUR APPRENTICES. EVEN THOSE WHO WON'T BE TAKING THE TEST.

GLANCE

PURE CHANCE, I ASSURE YOU.

I DIDN'T EXPECT *YOU'D* BE ASSIGNED.

TRUE TO ITS NAME, "THE SINCERITY OF THE SHIELD"...

...REQUIRES YOU TO SERVE AS A GUARDIAN, JUST LIKE A SHIELD-BEARING KNIGHT.

YOUR DUTY IS TO SEE THAT YOUR CHARGE JOURNEYS SAFELY ALL THE WAY FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE EXIT OF THE SERPENTBACK CAVE.

YOU MUSTN'T LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR CHARGE...

...AND TO PASS, YOU MUST BOTH ARRIVE AT THE EXIT TOGETHER.

AND OF COURSE, ANY SPELLS CAST MUST BE DONE *WITHOUT* BEING DISCOVERED.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE'RE SEEN CASTING?

W-WILL WE HAVE TO ERASE THEIR MEMORIES ...?

IF YOU'RE SEEN... WELL...

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE SECRET OF MAGIC GETTING OUT.

?!

FWUMP

PUT ON YOUR CLOAKS AND COME TAKE A PEEK FOR YOURSELF.

...ONCE THEY REALIZE YOU'RE *HUMAN.*

BUT YOU CERTAINLY WON'T HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF PASSING...

WOW...!

ARE THOSE GRYPHONS?!
NOT QUITE. MYRPHONS.
A DIFFERENT SPECIES THAT INHABITS THE COASTS.

SO THE SECOND TEST IS ABOUT USING SPELLS...

...TO PROTECT THE BIRDS FROM THE MAGIC OF THE CAVE.

PRECISELY!

THE CAVE ITSELF IS A MYSTICAL RUIN. A REMNANT FROM AN AGE OF CHAOS.

MAGIC HAS MADE THE CAVE INTO A WINDING MAZE. DANGER AWAITS IF YOU STRAY FROM THE SERPENTINE PATH.

AS WITCHES, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THEM FOR CHANGING THEIR WORLD.

FWOOSH!

...BUT FOR CREATURES OF THE LAND, IT HAS LONG SERVED AS AN IMPORTANT ROUTE TO BREEDING AND WINTERING GROUNDS.

HUMANS RARELY SET FOOT INTO THIS RUIN...

...AND PROTECT THEIR FLEDGLINGS, THAT THEY MAY JOURNEY THROUGH SAFELY!

FWSHWSH

THAT IS WHY, EVERY YEAR, WE LEAD...

BUT IF YOU TAKE THEM OFF OR ALTER THEIR SEALS, THE LITTLE ONES WILL SPOT YOU AND QUICKLY FLEE.

THANKS TO THE CLOAKS, THESE MYRPHONS SHOULD SEE YOU AS PART OF THEIR FLOCK.

EACH TEST-TAKER WILL BE IN CHARGE...

...OF ONE BIRD. HERE. THIS ONE'S YOURS.

...BUT THIS IS TRICKIER.

SO THAT'S HOW THE TEST WORKS.

IT'S LIKE KEEPING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION DIVERTED WHILE CASTING...

HUH?

WHY ARE YOU GIVING RICHEH ONE?

NO MISTAKE HERE.

HM?

YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

I'M NOT TAKING ANY TEST.

THAT'S ODD...

YOU'RE SIGNED UP FOR IT.

YOU'LL BE TAKING THE TEST, TOO, RICHEH.

RICHEH?

...YOU LIED TO ME...

BEFORE MASTER QIFREY BECAME MY TEACHER...

...HE PROMISED TO LET ME DO THINGS HOW I WANTED.

THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO COME HERE.

SQUEEZE

YOU'RE GONNA BOSS ME AROUND WITHOUT ANY CARE FOR WHAT *I* WANT.

BUT YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER ADULTS.

...I'M CERTAINLY NOT ABOUT TO DISMISS YOUR DESIRES.

...THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU ATTEMPT THE TEST.

IN FACT, IT IS *BECAUSE* I DO NOT DISMISS THEM...

THAT IS WHY...

THE THINGS YOU'LL LEARN HERE...

...WILL SURELY PROVE A BOON IN LEADING THE LIFE YOU'D LIKE TO LEAD.

...I ASK YOU TO TRUST ME FOR TODAY.

GLANCE チラッ

...

IF I TRY IT AND DON'T LIKE IT, I WON'T BE TAKING IT AGAIN.

OF COURSE.

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

...!

...THE WAY *I* WANNA TAKE IT.

FINE. BUT I'LL TAKE THE TEST...

6

...I WON'T EVER BELIEVE...

...A THING YOU SAY AGAIN.

AND IF IT MAKES ME NOT *ME* ANYMORE...

SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BIT OF A HANDFUL, TOO.

TMP TMP

WHY MUST CHIL-DREN ALWAYS —

OH. PARDON ME.

WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING?

HUH?!

I, UH...

HAAAH... SUCH A CHORE, ISN'T IT?

THEY ONLY BICKER AND PLEAD, "BUT MASTER!"

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY TO THE BAD ONES.

ALL I'D BE DOING IS STANDING AND WAITING AT THE EXIT!

I SPENT ALL DAY WAITING LAST TIME, AND THE TIME BEFORE, ONLY FOR HIM TO FAIL.

FLUSTER わたた

FLUSTER わたた

OH, GOODNESS. IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY?

I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE GREAT HALL!

YOU'LL NOT STAY FOR YOUR OWN APPRENTICE'S TEST?

SURELY YOU JEST?

FLUMP ぐはぁ

I HAVE WORK TO ATTEND TO. SURELY YOU TWO CAN MANAGE TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

NOW THEN, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL TO IT.

ぽい TOSS

AS AN APPRENTICE, CHOICE OF YOUR MASTER IS UP TO YOU.

IF YOU FEEL LIKE CHANGING ATELIERS, IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO DO SO.

YOU KNOW, EUINI...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE REALLY LEFT...!

G-

GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I ALWAYS MESS UP.

AND I'M SURE...

...

OH, AND IF THAT HAPPENS, HE'LL START INTRODUCING ME AS HIS STAR APPRENTICE, AND TALK ME UP IN FRONT OF OTHERS ALL THE TIME, AND...

COMB

COMB

...MY MASTER'S OPINION OF ME...

...IF I PASS THIS TEST...

...WILL CHANGE. I THINK. PROBABLY.

MAY NONE STRAY IN THE DARK-NESS.

AND MAY ALL REACH THE EXIT SAFELY.

MAY YOUR SPELLS GUIDE YOU SO.

MAY YOUR SPELLS CLEAR THE WAY.

RIGHT, THEN.

YES. DO YOUR BEST.

OH...

A-ANYWAY, I'M GONNA DO MY BEST!

HMM...

I'LL MAKE A REPORT AT THE GREAT HALL, OF COURSE...

ALAIRA!

SHOULDN'T WE INTER-VENE?!

...TO DECIDE UNDER WHOM TO STUDY.

...BUT ULTIMATELY, IT'S UP TO THE *APPRENTICE*...

QUICKLY! IT BEGINS!

THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!

DASH!!

...

ALONG WITH A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON.

HISTORY?

WELL, THEN...

HOW ABOUT A LATE BREAKFAST FOR US?

THEY REALLY WENT IN THERE...

YES.

I EXPECT YOU STILL DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH...

...ABOUT THE SERPENTBACK CAVE AND OTHER MYSTICAL RUINS, DO YOU, COCO?

MANY FORBIDDEN SPELLS DRAWN BEFORE THE DAY OF THE PACT...

...YET REMAIN IN OUR WORLD, LIKE SCARS ACROSS THE LAND.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRAVERSE *THIS?!*

WE'RE...

A TEST OF MAGIC AGAINST MAGIC.

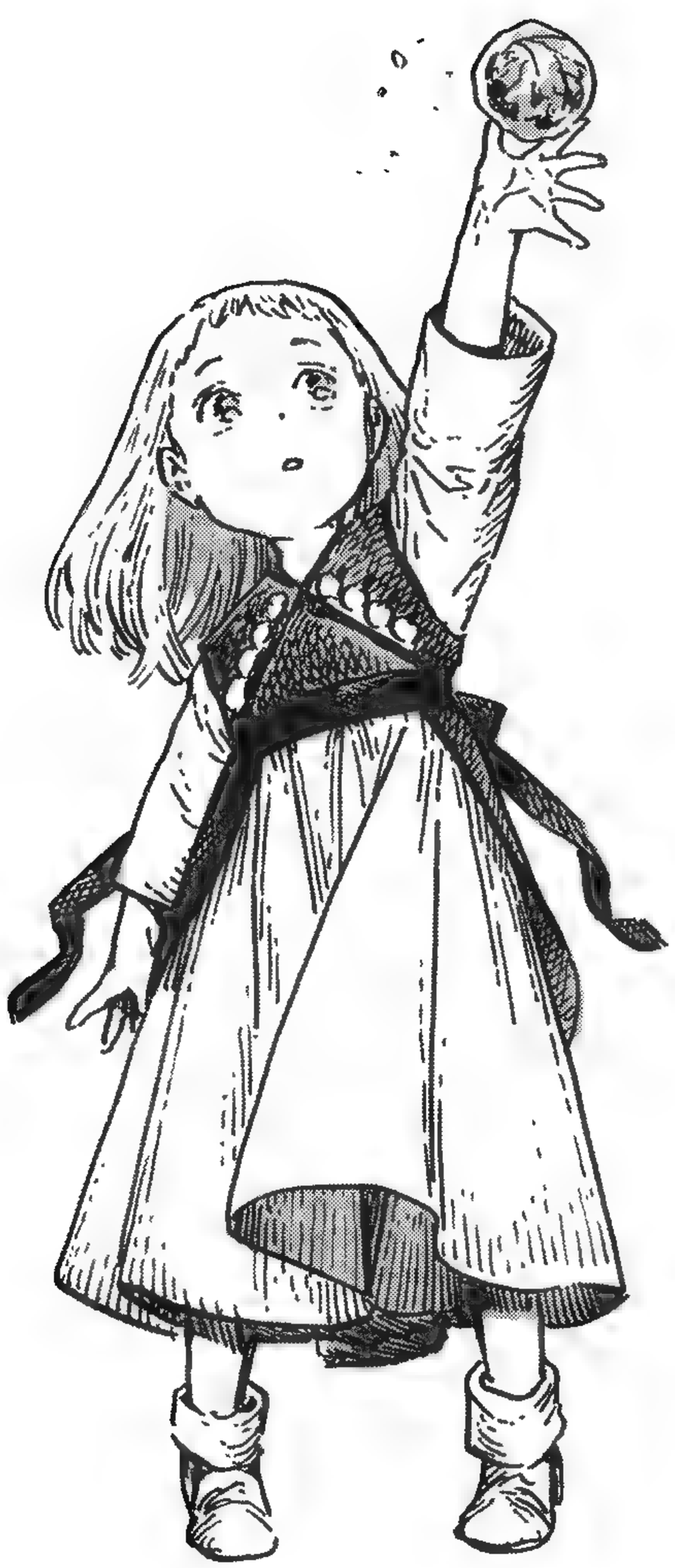
IT'S LIKE I SAID.

WITH WHAT MAGICAL SHIELDS WILL YOU FORGE YOUR PATHS, MY YOUNG KNIGHTS?

SO, HOW WILL YOU PROCEED?

CHAPTER 19 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier



Chapter 20

IT IS PRECISELY TO AVOID REPEATING SUCH MISTAKES THAT WE MUST KNOW OUR HISTORY WELL.

AND TO AID THAT STUDY, EACH POINT OF THE PENTACLE OF PROVING ...

...IS PLACED AT ONE OF THE MANY MYSTICAL RUINS IN OUR WORLD.

LONG, LONG AGO...

YES! VERY MUCH!! I WANNA KNOW MORE ABOUT MAGIC!

MY! IS SOMEONE *EXCITED* TO HEAR?

DOES THAT MEAN THERE'S SOME INCREDI— I MEAN, ***SCARY STORY*** ABOUT CAPE ROMONON, TOO?!

ZIP

UNABLE TO BEAR THE THOUGHT THAT HIS CROWN STOOD ATOP ANYTHING LESS THAN THE GREATEST PEAK...

...THE KING OF DADAH SELFISHLY RAISED MOUNTAINS INTO THE SKY, FROM WHICH HE PEERED DOWN ONTO HIS FIELDS OF BATTLE.

AND SEEKING TO HAVE THE DEAD WALK ONCE MORE, THE DARK WITCH OF THRISTAS...

...TURNED AN ENTIRE SILVER-WOOD FOREST INTO WOODS OF GLOOM AND SHADOW, FILLED WITH MIASMA MOST THICK.

THEY'RE ALL PLACES THAT WERE WARPED BY MAGIC IN DAYS BEFORE THE PACT.

...AND THE GAPING MAW OF THE ZOZAH STRAITS IN THE EAST...

AND THE SMOKY WASTES OF THE FAR NORTH...

...THERE FLOURISHED HERE A CIVILIZATION KNOWN AS THE CAVERN NATION OF ROMONON.

IT WAS HOME TO CRAFTSMEN OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER, ABLE TO WEAVE GOLD INTO THE MOST INTRICATE DESIGNS USING MAGIC.

ALWAYS THE PEOPLE OF ROMONON KEPT THEMSELVES CLAD IN THEIR OWN MYSTICAL GOLDWORK AND AN AIR OF GREAT PRIDE.

THEY SAW THEM-SELVES APART FROM OTHERS...

...AND LOOKED DOWN ON ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES BEYOND THE CAVE.

THEY CONSTRUCTED A SNAKING ROAD THAT ONLY THOSE PERMITTED WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVERSE.

SOON, THE ROMONON DECIDED TO GRANT AUDIENCE ONLY TO THOSE FROM WHOM THEY STOOD TO GAIN.

AS KNOWLEDGE SPREAD OF ROMONON'S GREAT WEALTH, VISITORS FROM THE SURFACE GREW IN NUMBER.

...FROM EVER REACHING ROMONON.

...A SPELL OF MAZES THAT KEPT THOSE WHO OFFERED NOTHING...

AND UPON THE REST OF THE CAVE THEY CARVED...

MAY ROMONON BE EVER BATHED IN LIGHT!

HEAR, HEAR!

THE SICK, THE POOR, AND THE UGLY MUST NEVER TREAD UPON OUR HALLOWED LANDS!

AND AT SOME POINT...

...BUT ALSO IN ARROGANCE AND BIGOTRY.

ROMONON CONTINUED TO GROW IN BEAUTY AND WEALTH...

SPEAK! DO YOU BRING MERIT TO THE PEOPLE OF ROMONON OR NAY?

...ATTENTION TURNED TO THE WORTH OF ITS VERY OWN PEOPLE.

THOSE IN WHOM NO MERIT WAS FOUND...

WHAT KIND OF FOOLISH QUESTION IS THAT?!

...AS STATUES OF GOLD THAN TO REMAIN AS WORTHLESS FLESH.

...WERE DEEMED BETTER FIT TO DECORATE THE CITY...

...

...UNTIL FINALLY, AS THE STORY GOES, IT COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ITS OWN GREAT MASSES OF GOLD.

AS THE WATER IN A BLOCKED STREAM BEGINS TO CLOUD...

...SO TOO DID STAGNATE THE CLOSED NATION OF ROMONON.

WITH MOUNTING STRIFE AND HATRED INTERNAL...

...THE COUNTRY TIRED...

...AND WEAK-ENED...

ALL THAT REMAINED WAS THE SERPENT-BACK ROAD...

...AND ITS CAVERN TURNED TO MAZE.

BUT MASTER ...

AS IS THE FACT THAT SO FEW OF US ACKNOWLEDGE ...

...HOW EASILY TERRIFYING THINGS MAY COME TO PASS.

MANKIND IS TRULY TERRIFYING.

...AND TO MAKE THE WORLD *VIBRANT*, RIGHT?!

TO *HELP* PEOPLE...

...MAGIC EXISTS TO MAKE PEOPLE *HAPPY*, DOESN'T IT?

...!

...THEN SURELY... YES...

...ALL WILL BE WELL.

IF YOU, THE FUTURE WITCHES OF THE WORLD, BELIEVE SO...

IT'S STILL GOOD! YOU JUST HAVE TO SCRAPE AWAY THE CHARRED PARTS.

YUMMY!

HFF! HFF! EEP! THAT'S HOT!

OH NO! THEY'RE BURNT TO A CRISP!

SCORCH

SCORCH

BUT ALL *THIS* SPELL WILL DO IS BRING SORROW TO TODAY'S BREAKFAST.

I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE.

I TRULY DO...

"MAGIC EXISTS TO MAKE THE WORLD *VIBRANT*," HM?

...HOPE IT IS SO.

AS YOUR PROCTOR, PAST THIS POINT, I WON'T BE OFFERING ANY ADVICE OR INSTRUCTION.

SO, LET'S SEE HOW YOU MAKE YOUR WAY DOWN THIS ROAD.

IT'S ALL TWISTY, BUT IT NEVER FORKS. THERE'S ONLY ONE PATH.

THIS'LL BE...

FALL

...A PIECE OF CAKE. JUST FLY ALL THE WAY TO THE—

...END?!

FW

AHHH!

OP!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

OH NO!

GRAB!

SHE'S GONNA FALL!!

?!

I-IT'S NOT ANYTHING *I* CAST.

WHAT KIND OF SPELL IS *THAT?!*

THEY'RE STANDING SIDEWAYS!

THIS IS THE MAGIC OF THE ROAD ITSELF.

TMP

YOU HAVE TO ORIENT YOURSELF ACCORDING TO THE SERPENT-BACK ROAD...

SPACE IS ALL MIXED UP INSIDE THIS CAVE.

DOES THAT MEAN...

IF YOU STEP OFF, YOU FALL INTO THE CAVERN MAZE...

...AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE BACK AT THE ENTRANCE.

...EVERY ONE OF THESE ROUND STONES— EVERY ONE OF THE SNAKE'S *SCALES*...

...HAS A *SEAL* ON IT?!

THE SPELL YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE HERE IS FROM THE PRIMER. IT'S—

OF COURSE! I KNOW THE ONE!

TH- THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT SOME OF THEM ARE CRACKED OR CRUMBLING.

I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT ON MY FIRST TRY, AND THAT'S HOW I FELL OFF THE ROAD.

KER-SPLSH!

WATER FLOWS TO WHEREVER GRAVITY TAKES IT.

IF IT REACHES A LEVEL PLACE, IT PAUSES AND POOLS.

DRIP

IF THE ONLY SPOTS THAT ARE *LEVEL*...

...ARE PLACES WHERE THE SEALS STILL FUNCTION...

...THEN THE CORRECT PATH TO TAKE...

...IS ACROSS THE TILES THAT REMAIN WET!

W-WOW! SO THIS IS THE TALENT OF THE HOUSE OF ARKLAUM!

TH-

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!

...

THE RIGHT WAY, USING THE RIGHT SPELL, TO FIND THE RIGHT ANSWER...

NOW, NOW, RICHEH-LETTE...

...AND IF YOU STRAY AT ALL, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING I HATE MOST.

FLING

ENOUGH! THROW THESE SCRIBBLES INTO THE TRASH!

WHY CAN'T YOU SIMPLY DO AS I SAY?

...IF YOU DON'T CEASE WITH THESE USELESS SPELLS...

...YOU'LL NEVER DEVELOP INTO A *PROPER* WITCH.

I DON'T WANT TO THROW THEM AWAY.

THEY'RE MY SPELLS.

THEY AREN'T SCRIBBLES.

COME ON, LITTLE FRIEND!

THIS WAY!

I WON'T THROW MYSELF AWAY.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO...

HONESTLY! YOU'D BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE IF YOU FELL!

SO COME ON!

I'VE FIGURED OUT WHERE TO WALK...

...BUT MY MYRPHON WON'T FOLLOW ME.

FLICK

FLICK

!

?

HUH?

B-BUT GESTURES LIKE THAT ARE IMPORTANT.

E-ENOUGH WITH THE ACT!

PLAYING CUTE ISN'T GOING TO BRING YOU ANY CLOSER TO THE EXIT!

SO WHEN WE WANT THEM TO FOLLOW US...

MYRPHONS COMMUNICATE BY CALLING OUT TO EACH OTHER.

STORM!

ズ!!

HUH?

ン!

STORM ズ!!

STORM ズ!!

STORM ズ!!

STORM ズ!!

...AND THEN...

...THE *RIGHT* WAY IS TO USE AN ECHOING SPELL TO MAKE CRIES LIKE THEIRS...

ズ!! STORM

STORM ズ!!

STORM

DON'T TELL ME...

...WHAT'S RIGHT OR WRONG WHEN IT COMES TO MAGIC.

!

OH! THE MYRPHON, THEY'RE...!

THERE'S NO ONE WAY YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS.

GLE

JIN

WE DON'T NEED YOU EXPLAINING EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

HUH ...?

YOU MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THIS TEST BEFORE...

...BUT I'M SICK OF HEARING YOU TELL US ABOUT THE *RIGHT* WAY.

WHIRL

I *DON'T* WANT TO GROW UP INTO SOME OTHER KIND OF WITCH.

I WANT TO BE MY OWN PERSON.

...HOW I MAKE IT TO THE EXIT USING MY *OWN* SPELLS.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU...

BUT THAT'S ...

... THAT'S ...

...IMPOS-SIBLE...!

RICHEH...

WELL, LOOK AT THAT.

THERE'S A SPECIFIC, EXPECTED ANSWER.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS ON A *TEST.*

YOU CAN'T GET BY IN THE WORLD LIKE THAT.

WE HAVE TO DO IT LIKE IT SAYS IN THE PRIMER.

CHILDREN.

STUDENTS.

WE'RE JUST BEGIN-NERS.

YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE!

THEN WE'LL *MAKE* THEM WORK!

BUT SPELLS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN TRIED BEFORE MIGHT NOT WORK!

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS BECAUSE "THAT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE"!

THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN...

FUME

IF WE DON'T, I'LL FAIL *AGAIN.*

...

THAT'S JUST HOW TESTS WORK!

COMB

ANYWAY, I KNOW ONE APPRENTICE WHO USES AN APPROACH LIKE THAT.

INTERPRETED WELL, IT BRINGS SUSTENANCE.

...FROM FAILURE.

...

I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE THE TEST HOW YOU WANT, RICHEH.

IT'S NO BUSINESS OF MINE.

I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION. IT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.

!
WE'RE GONNA LOSE ONE!
QWAK
QWAK
GRASPING WIND!
SHWOOP
PHEW ...
SLIIIDE
I'M GOING ON AHEAD.
THESE LITTLE GUYS...
...ARE OUR PRIORITY RIGHT NOW.
FSSSHHH
?

...H-
HE...

...SAYS
IT EVERY
DAY.

M-MY
MASTER
...

WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND? IS
IT WATER?

I-I
THINK HE'S
RIGHT...

THAT IT'S
BEYOND
ME.

THAT I'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
DO IT.

THIS IS
ROMONON
WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

BUT
EVEN THEN,
IT'S STILL
BEYOND ME.

THAT'S WHY
I'VE ALWAYS
STUDIED
HOW *OTHER*
WITCHES SOLVE
PROBLEMS.

THE WHOLE POINT OF THE ROAD...

...WAS TO KEEP OUT THE ONES NOT CHOSEN...

FLUTTER

WHAT IS IT?

COCO?

?

WELL, KUKROW RETURNED HOME, AND...

...I DOUBT THERE WOULD BE ANYONE ELSE. WHY?

ARE THERE SUPPOSED TO BE ANY OTHER WITCHES HERE TODAY?

MASTER QIFREY!

...I SAW SOMEONE IN A ROBE IN THE DISTANCE.

JUST NOW, I THOUGHT ...

!!

WWWSHH

DASH

COCO?

CHAPTER 20 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 21

AFTER THE WATER FALLS OFF THE EDGE, IT STARTS SOARING OFF UNPREDICTABLY ...

...WHICH TELLS US THAT AT PLACES WHERE THE ROAD HAS CRUMBLED AWAY, THERE WON'T BE ANY MAGIC TO KEEP US LEVEL.

WE HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO CROSS.

RICHEH?

SOME KIND OF—

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY.

SQUEEZE

...IS *EXTEND* THE TOPS OF THE STONES TO THE OTHER SIDE.

SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO...

GLOW

THE SPELL KEEPS US IN PLACE AS LONG AS WE STAY ON TOP OF THE STONES.

PUUULL

JUST LIKE...

...THIS!

TMP

SHE'S CROSSING OVER ON A RIBBON OF STONE!

SH-

SEE?

TMP

KRRKK

FLOAT

IF YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU DO THINGS...

...YOU CAN DO THE THINGS YOU COULDN'T BEFORE.

...

THERE'S SOMETHING TO THAT.

HUH?

STEP ス"ッ

WAIT! STOP! YOU'RE GONNA—

HEY!

7"ッ MUMBLE

MUMBLE 7"ッ

MUMBLE 7"ッ

IN OTHER WORDS, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS MAKE SURE WE REMAIN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE ROAD'S SPELL.

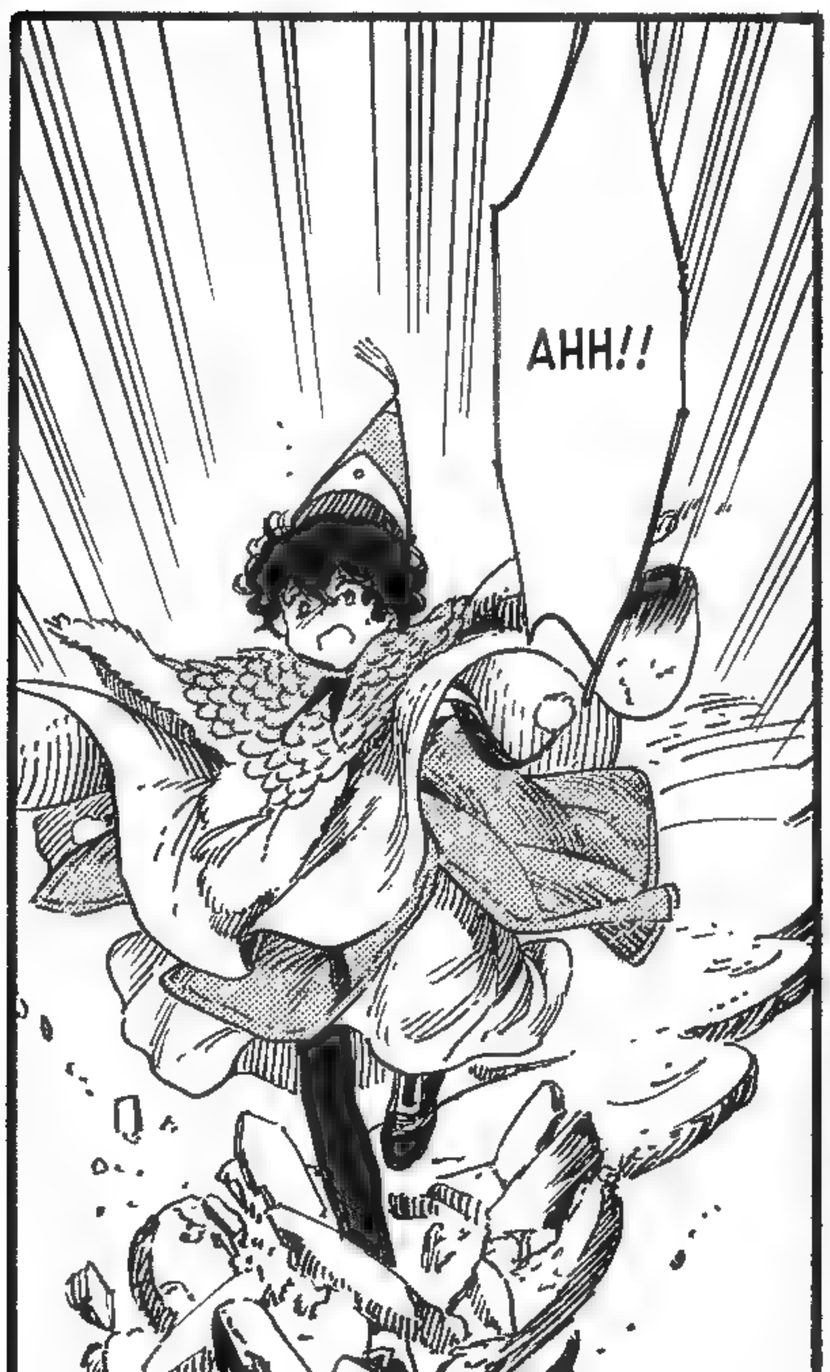
7"ッ MUMBLE

そ"そ"そ"

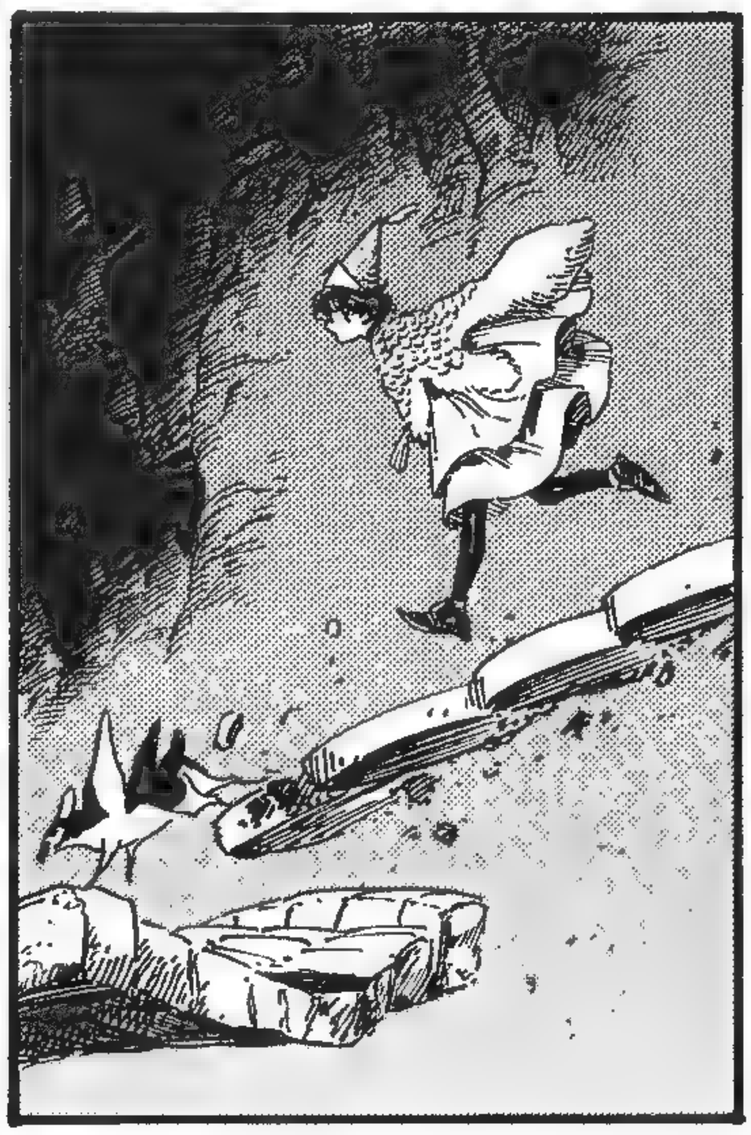
RUMMAGE

TMP !!!

THE EFFECT DOESN'T SPREAD VERY WIDE, BUT IT'S ENOUGH!
A COMBINATION OF REPLICATION AND REPETITION MAGIC!


AHH!!

CRMBLLL
!!!



b.

DRAWING WELL UNDER THE CLOAK IS DEFINITELY TRICKY.

SPELLS DON'T LAST TOO LONG LIKE THIS.

I'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO.

I'VE GOT TO GET BETTER!

PRETTY SURE YOU'RE UP NEXT.

URK...

AU

GHI

I...

MASTER'S RIGHT! I CAN'T DO IT!

WAAAAAAH!

I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS!!

I DON'T HAVE TALENT OR COURAGE OR CONFIDENCE OR COMPETENCE OR *ANY* SPECIAL SKILLS. I'VE GOT NOTHING!

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, PART OF THE ROAD'S CRUMBLED AWAY SINCE LAST YEAR. I DON'T EVEN HAVE *LUCK!*

I'M GONNA FAIL AGAIN! I KNOW IT!!

...LISTEN.

YOU'VE BEEN SHARING YOUR ANALYSIS AND AWARENESS SINCE WE FIRST GOT HERE.

NOW YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA *TRY* TO MAKE USE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE? YOU'VE TAKEN THE TEST *TWICE!*

RUMMAGE ゴソ...

QW-

OH WHY...

OH WHY, OH WHY...

JUST DRAW SOMETHING! ANYTHING!

PERK ピク

PATTER

PATTER

PATTER

...CASTING A RAIN SPELL TO POOL WATER ON THE TILES.

WHAT'S HE...

WAS THAT A... SOUNDSPELL WITH A RECORDING OF A MYRPHON ON IT?

DRIP

AND NOW HE'S...

DRIP

M-MY HANDS WON'T STOP SHAKING.

WHY ARE YOU CASTING SPELLS FOR PROBLEMS WE'VE SOLVED?!

I-I CAN'T DRAW!

YOU NEED A *NEW* SPELL TO CROSS THE GAP!

WHAT?!

CLENCH

BUT I'M NOT CAPABLE OF ANYTHING ON MY OWN...!

I WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING...

IF I FEEL SOMEONE'S EYES, I START SWEATING AND THE PEN SLIPS, AND I TREMBLE SO BAD, THE LINES GET ALL WAVY. THE SPELL ENDS UP A BIG MESS!

I-I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DRAW WELL WHEN SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME.

A-AND THEN WHEN THEY...

...SEE ME SHAKING AND PANICKING, IT JUST GETS WORSE!

...

OH, EUINI...

...I STUDIED AND PREPARED. I DREW ALL THE SPELLS— THE RIGHT ANSWERS— AHEAD OF TIME.

SO THIS YEAR...

I WANTED TO FINALLY GET PAST THIS.

I FIGURED I MIGHT *LOOK* LIKE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING.

ALL I'D HAVE TO DO WAS CLOSE THE RINGS AND LET EACH SPELL ACTIVATE.

WHEN I'M ALONE, I CAN CONCENTRATE. I CAN DRAW.

AND WE'RE NOT BARRED FROM BRINGING OUR QUIRE TO THE TEST.

BUT THIS GAP...

...IN THE ROAD... IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.

I HADN'T PLANNED FOR IT. THIS MUST BE MY PUNISHMENT FOR TRYING TO PASS THE WRONG WAY.

IF I COULD, I'D FIND A WAY TO STOP BEING ME.

I WISH I COULD BE *ANYONE ELSE.*

WHY DO THINGS ALWAYS END UP LIKE THIS FOR ME?

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE YOUR OWN PERSON.

PLIP

PLIP

THIS IS A TEST TO DETERMINE IF WE'RE ABLE TO USE MAGIC IN FRONT OF NORMAL PEOPLE WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT.

...

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE HIM EVER PASSING, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE TRIES.

!

IT'S NOT BEYOND YOU.

DON'T YOU SEE?

YOU JUST SAID THE ANSWER YOURSELF.

YOU CAN PASS JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

IF YOU CAN DRAW WHEN YOU'RE ALONE...

...THEN FIND A WAY TO BE ALONE!

HUH...?

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRAW A SPELL LIKE TH—

THEN DO IT *WITHOUT* MAGIC!

B-BUT ...

MAKING A ROOM OR WHATEVER SO YOU CAN BE ALONE SHOULD BE EASY!

FLAP

WITH MAGIC, YOU CAN STRETCH ROCKS AND MAKE RAIN FALL!

H-HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO—

ANY WAY YOU CAN!

SNIFF

SINK
ストン…

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

I CAN'T JUST COME UP WITH SOMETHING ON THE SPOT.

I...

I CAN'T...

...

...

...

NO INTER-
RUPTING.

YOU—

!

SST

I FEEL SO PATHETIC, I COULD CRY!

THIS IS ALL I COULD COME UP WITH!

NOT...

SOB...

I WISH I COULD DISAP-
PEAR...

AUUUUGH!

THIS IS AWFUL! IT'S THE WORST!

I MUST LOOK LIKE SUCH A DISAPPOINT-
MENT!

I-I-IT EVEN SEEMS PITIFUL TO **ME** WHEN I IMAGINE IT.

MAYBE THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME.

F-FROM OUT THERE, I BET I LOOK PRETTY SILLY, BALLED UP IN MY OWN CLOAK.

SLUMP 3

THE OTHER TWO ARE PROBABLY SO SICK OF ME BY NOW...

GLANCE

MASTER ALAIRA'S PROBABLY GIVEN UP ON ME, TOO.

B-DMP

...!

FWIP!

B-DMP

B-DMP

B-DMP

NONE OF THEM ARE LAUGHING OR MAKING FUN OF ME.

I'M THE ONLY ONE BERATING MYSELF.

SHE'S NOT LAUGHING.

CHANGE THE WAY I DO THINGS...

I GET IT NOW...

THE ONLY ONE HERE CASTING A CURSE ON ME...

...IS ME. MY OWN REFLECTION.

THIS SEAL IS FOR...

...A MIRROR CLOAK OF BORROW-SHADE.

LIKE ONE IN A MIRROR ...

GASP

!

WOW. MULTIPLE SEALS COMBINED INTO ONE...

...THEN LET THE CLOAK'S SCALES REFLECT BACK AN IMAGE OF WHATEVER BEAST IS NEARBY.

...SIGNS OF REFLECTION COMBINE TO MAKE THE WEARER VANISH INTO SHADOW...

IT'S NOT REALLY EVEN A MIRROR. SIGNS OF CONCEALMENT AND...

!

MAYBE I CAN...!

WITH THIS...

MAYBE ...

RUMMAGE

ゴソゴソ

RUMMAGE

BWOOSH

HM?

IS SOME-THING WR—

PERK

EUINI?!

AGOTT! RICHEH! STAY BACK!

I'LL PUT UP A SHIELD OF WIND!

REACH

I-

IT'S ALL RIGHT!

F-WOOSH

SOME ANCIENT SPELL I'VE NOT ENCOUNTERED BEFORE?!

IS THIS A MAGICAL TRAP SET BY THE ROMONON?!

EUINI!

I'M THE ONE CASTING IT!

BILLOW

BILLOW

WHEN I WAS HIDING INSIDE, I CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE SEAL. THE ONE FOR THE BORROWSHADE MIRROR.

UM...

HAHA...

FW

IP

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CLOAK?!

I CROSSED OUT THE MIRROR PART OF THE SPELL...

...WHICH LEAVES THE CLOAK ONLY GATHERING SHADOWS.

WITH THIS, I BLEND IN WITH THE DARKNESS. I CAN DRAW WITHOUT BEING SEEN.

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

THE MYRPHON WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME EITHER, SO IT MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LEAD THE WAY...

...BUT I STILL HAVE MY SOUND-SPELL WITH THE MYRPHON CALLS ON IT.

?

I-I SUPPOSE.

AS LONG AS THEY DON'T REALIZE I'M HUMAN, IT STILL COUNTS, RIGHT?

BY HIDING MYSELF, I CAN BE ON MY OWN.

I CAN CONCENTRATE. I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS LOOKING!

I FIGURED LIKE THIS, I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO CAST!

I-IT *IS* A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSING, HAVING TO HIDE...

...BUT I THINK...

...THIS IS ***MY*** WAY.

...MAYBE...

UM...

I,
UH...

ARE YOU DONE HATING YOURSELF?

...YEAH.

A LITTLE BIT, ANY-WAY.

GOOD. SO QUIT DECIDING THINGS ARE IMPOS-SIBLE.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU AT ALL.

WHY'D YOU BOTHER GIVING HIM ADVICE?

TH-THANKS, RICHEH!

I-I MIGHT SLIP AND SAY IT AGAIN...

B-BUT I'M GONNA WORK TO MAKE SURE THINGS DON'T END THERE!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU CARED ABOUT OTHERS.

...IT'S AWFUL WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO BUT CAN'T.

I KNOW THAT FEELING.

EUINI RAN TO SAVE ME AT THE BEGINNING. NOW WE'RE EVEN.

AND BESIDES ...

SWISH

AND I LACK EXPERIENCE AS I AM NOW. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE FEELING SATISFIED WITH MY *CURRENT* SELF.

BEING UPSET WHEN YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO DO SOMETHING IS NORMAL.

THAT'S WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GROW.

I'M GOING TO BECOME SOMETHING GREATER THAN WHAT I AM NOW.

...

PLISH

THERE MAY BE ONLY ONE ROAD...

...BUT THE SPELLS EACH OF US CAST HERE WILL DIFFER.

TESTS ARE A WAY FOR US TO KNOW OURSELVES.

AND WE DO IT BY FACING CHALLENGES LIKE THESE.

...TO WALK OUR VERY OWN PATH.

WE EACH FIND OUR VERY OWN WAY...

...

SEE?!

GRIN!

TESTS DON'T SEEM SO BAD NOW, DO THEY?

OH, SPEAKING ...

...OF WHICH, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT QIFREY.

AN "ANGRICHEH POINT"?

What's that?

HE'S EARNED HIMSELF AN ANGRICHEH POINT.

?

?

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M FORGIVING MASTER QIFREY. NOT UNTIL HE APOLOGIZES FOR LYING AND FORCING ME TO TAKE THIS TEST.

=3

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING—

...!

FWIP

?!!

MISS ALAIRA!!

THE BRIMMED CAPS?!

THEY'RE —

A BRIMMED CAP?! HERE?!

WHY?!

ヒュ〜!!

FWOOSH

!!!

スッ SST

PRAY LET QIFREY FIND THIS...!!

MASTER ALAIRA!

MAS-TER!!

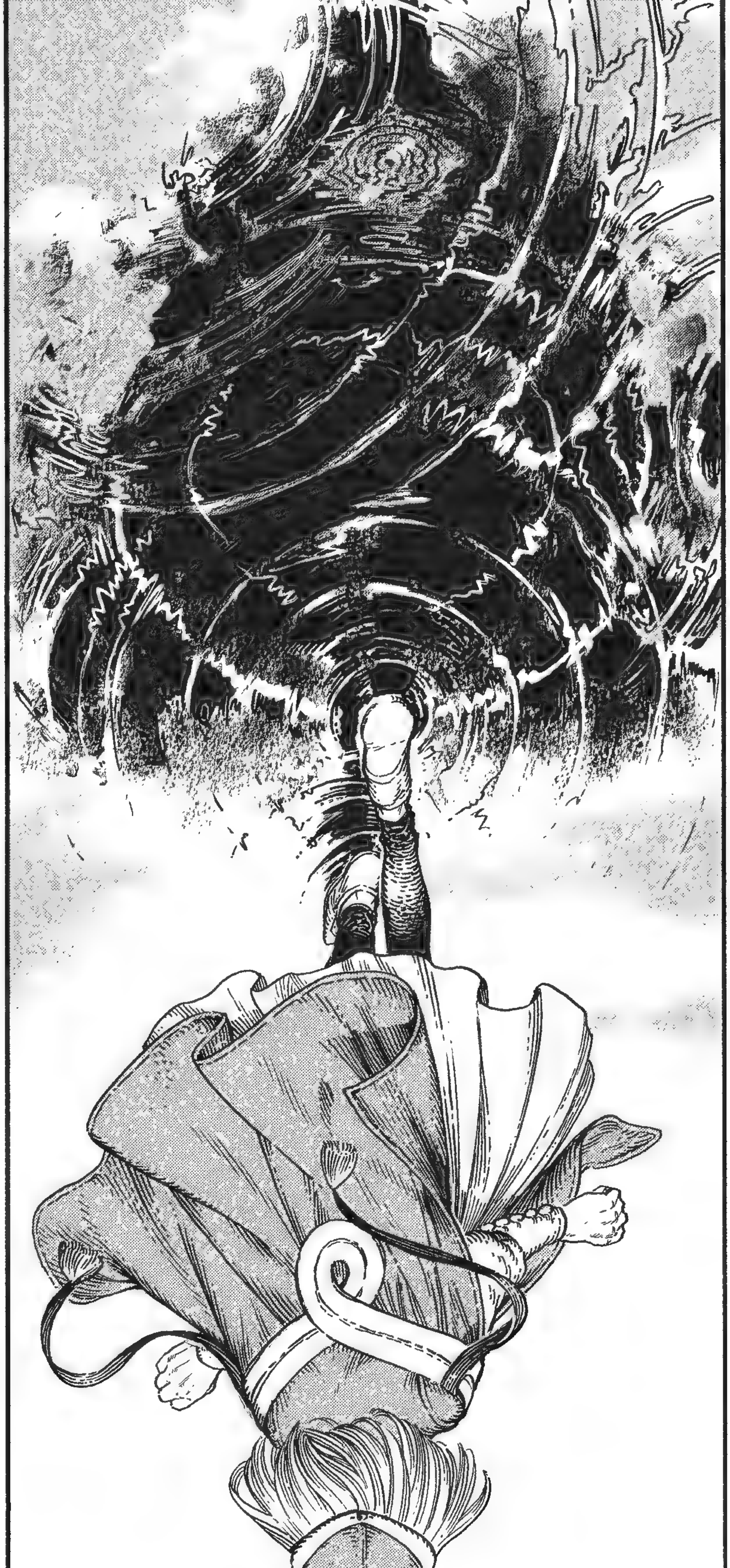
IT'S A SHIELD OF WIND!

ONE OF MISS ALAIRA'S PROTECTIVE SPELLS!

CHAPTER 21 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

CHAPTER 22



WOW! AMAZING!

HOW ARE YOU SO FAST, COCO?!

FWOOSH

OH, MY!

HOW STARTLING!

SHE TRULY IS QUITE FAST!

IF AGOTT IS CONTINUING TO USE THOSE SHOES...

...I'D SAY IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S FOND OF YOUR SPELL.

HUH?

SKIIIIID

I SEE. THAT TIME AGOTT CAME ZOOMING INTO ME MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE SHOES YOU PREPARED FOR HER.

Fascinating!

Haha!

IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!

FLUSTER FLUSTER

FLUSTER

OH NO! AGOTT'S SHOES ARE LIKE THIS?! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

BLUSH

PERK

!

NOT NOW, MASTER.

COCO'S NOT LISTEN-ING.

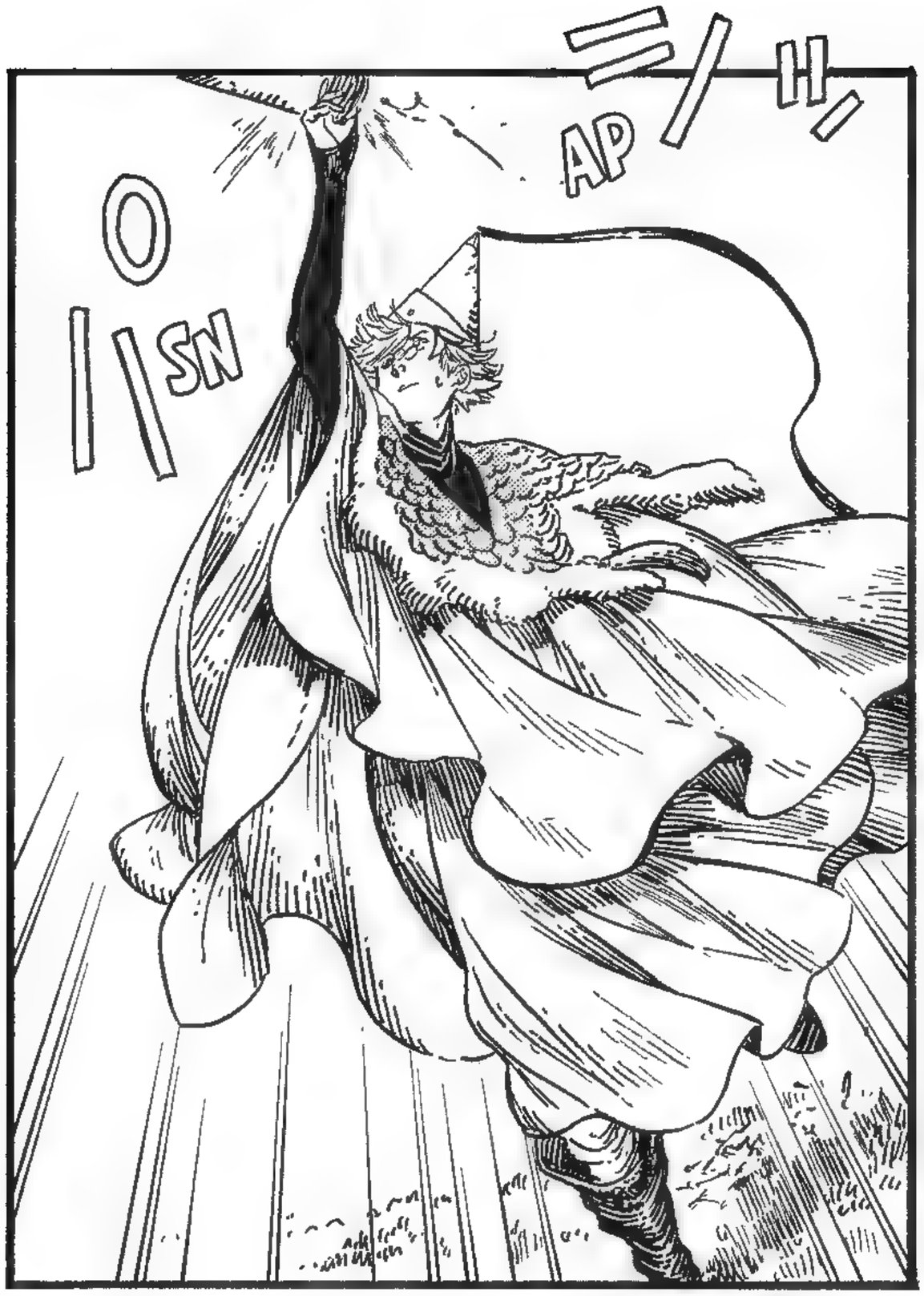
PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHER SPELLS IN WHICH THEY'LL COME IN HANDY.

YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT THOSE STRAIGHT LINES, AFTER ALL.

I'd say so!

She likes it?

Agott likes my spell?!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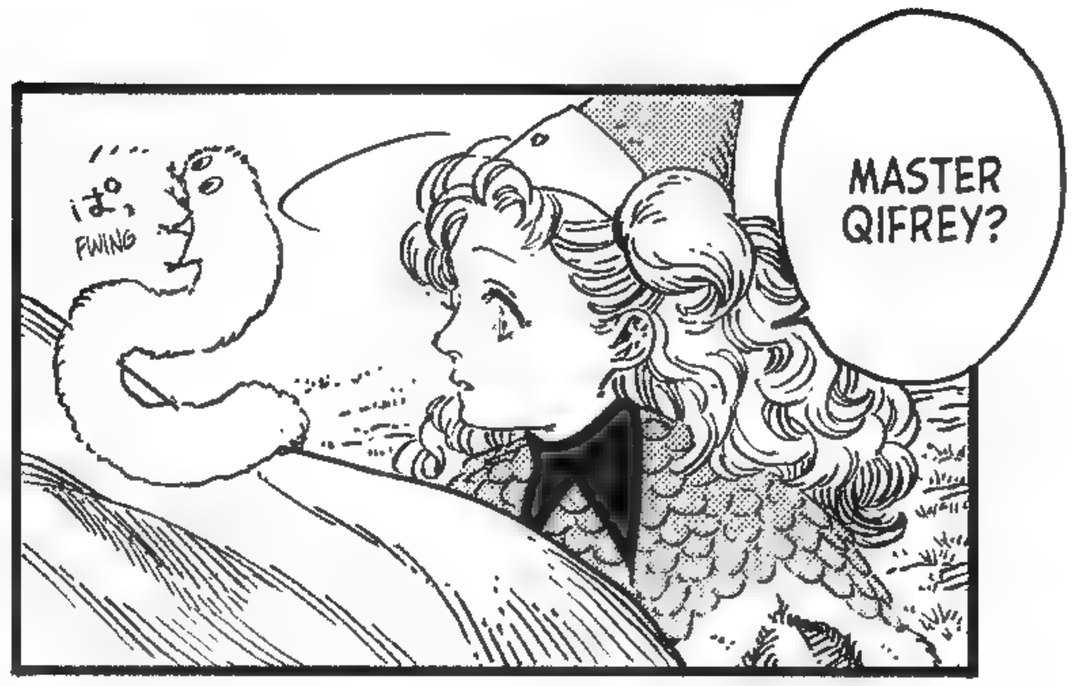
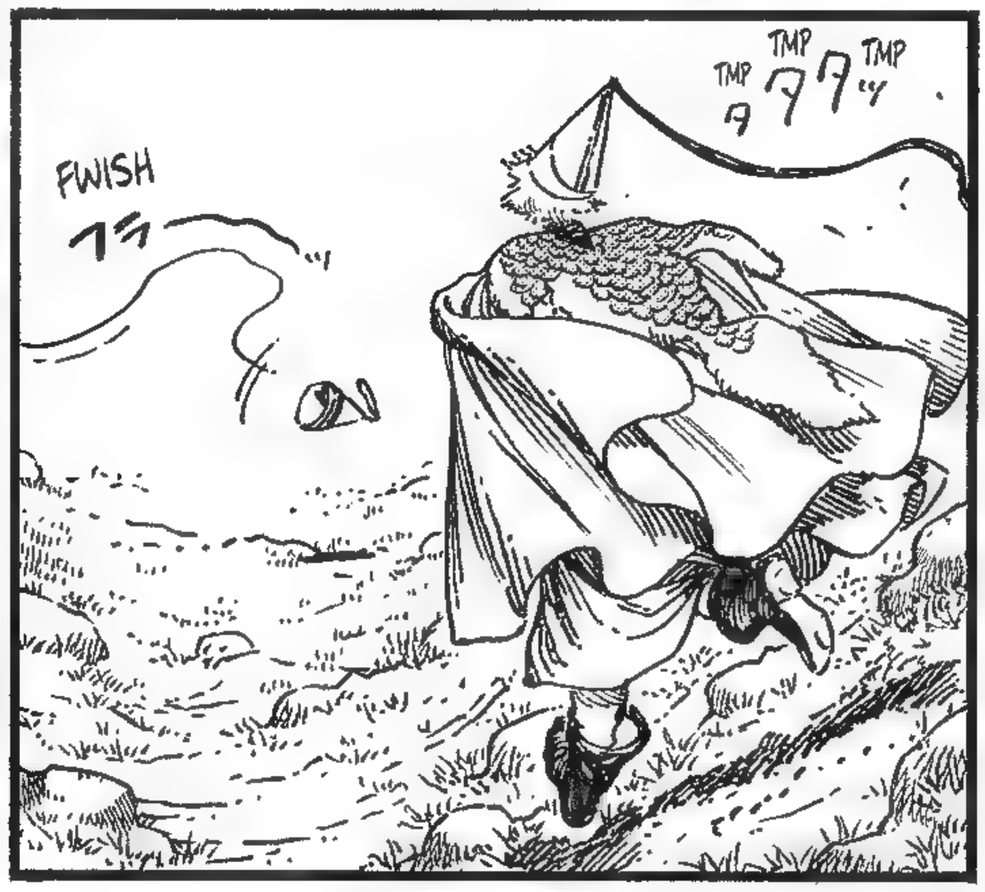

MASTER QIFREY?
FWING


FWISH
TMP
TMP
TMP

THIS IS ALAIRA'S CAP.

IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?!
MAS-TER? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DON'T LIKE THIS.

WHAT IF...

A WITCH'S HAT IS A TREASURED POSSESSION.

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE SENT THIS UNLESS IT WAS A MATTER OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE.

WHAT IF THEY'VE ENCOUNTERED THE BRIMMED CAPS?!

TUG

!!

ARE AGOTT AND THE OTHERS ALL RIGHT?

MASTER QIFREY...

SLINK

SLINK

I'M GOING TO CALL OLRUGGIO HERE. HE'LL TAKE YOU TWO BACK TO THE ATELIER.

ONCE I'VE SENT WORD TO THE GREAT HALL, I'M GOING TO HEAD INSIDE THE CA—

...

LISTEN. BOTH OF YOU.

LUNGE

KER

KRASH

STONE THAT MOVES! A GOLEM?!

SUCH AN ANCIENT SPELL COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED ALL THIS TIME!

IT MUST BE THE WORK OF THE BRIMMED CAPS!

NGH!

THNK

MASTER QIFREY!!

WHAT GOOD IS RUNNING GONNA DO?!

WH-

WE'RE UP AGAINST ONE OF THE BRIMMED CAPS!

FWIP!

I'M DONE SAYING THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE!

I PROMISED MYSELF THAT!

CLENCH

IM—

WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY! IT'S IMPO—

STAAARE

TMP

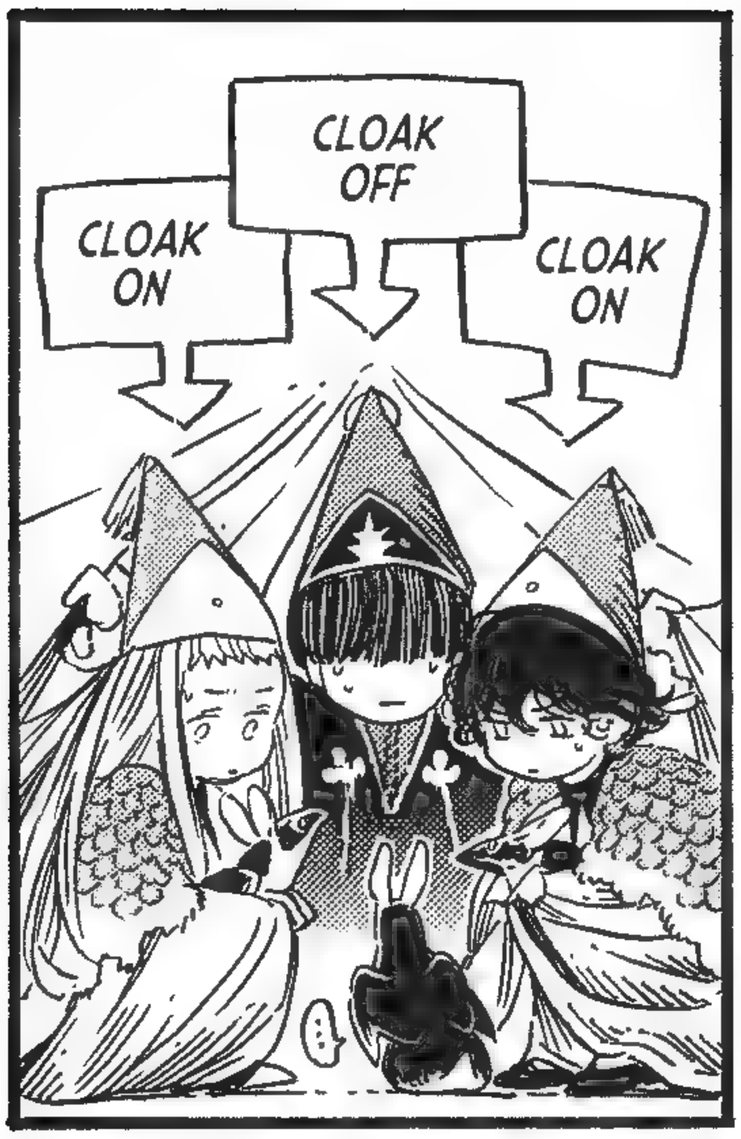
FWOOSH

...TO FIND A WAY TO HIDE FROM *ME.*

WHAT CLEVER YOUNG APPRENTICES YOU ARE...

MY, MY.

...


CLOAK OFF
CLOAK ON
CLOAK ON

!

I ADORE A GOOD GAME OF HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK.
I KNOW YOU'RE IN HERE. COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE...

BAD MYRPHON! YOU HAVE TO BE *QUIET!*
YOU'RE GIVING US AWAY!
AHH!!
!!!
QWAK!
QWAH!
QWAHH!

SLINK

...OR HUNTERS WITH BATED BREATH, STALKING THEIR PREY.

WHICH, I WONDER, ARE YOU?

...COWARDS CONSUMED BY FEAR, DESPERATE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES...

THE ONLY TYPES WHO CONCEAL THEMSELVES IN SHADOW ARE GUILT-RIDDEN CRIMINALS WITH SECRETS TO HIDE...

?!

HE VANISHED!

FWUMP

I DO KNOW WHICH ONE YOU'RE *NOT*.

HELP! I'M BEING SUCKED IN!

I'VE GOT IT!

EUINI!

YANK

EEK!

BECAUSE THE ONLY ONE DOING THE HUNTING HERE IS *ME*.

SHHHMMM

KRPFF!

EAT WALL-BREAKER SEAL!!

EUINI, CLOSE YOUR EYES!

BMF!!

EUINI, CAN YOU STAND?!

RICHEH! WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE! HURRY!

NEENER-NEENER!

HOPE YOU ENJOY PULLING A BUNCH OF *RUBBLE* TOWARD YOU!

WE CAN'T FLY AWAY BECAUSE OF THE MAGIC CAST ON THE SERPENTBACK CAVE.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE PLAN OR IMPROVISE, IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH AGAINST THIS OPPONENT.

IF WE STRETCH THE STONE ALONG WITH US, IT'LL ONLY TAKE US SO FAR.

!

THAT'S IT!

TOSS

ぽっ

CRUMBLE

ガラ ガラ ガラ

IF MISS ALAIRA'S NOT EVEN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP HIM, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD...!

MISS ALAIRA WALKED ACROSS THE GAP IN THE ROAD BY CREATING ICE AT HER FEET!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

LIKE THIS...

KRSHK

IF WE FREEZE THE ENTIRE ROAD, WE WON'T HAVE TO CARE WHICH OF THE TILES HAVE CRUMBLED!

THIS WAY, THE SPELL SHOULD EXTEND ACROSS THE ENTIRE ROAD!!

IT'LL BE MUCH FASTER THAN RUNNING!

WE CAN SKATE ALONG IT TO GET AWAY.

GET ON! HURRY! HURRY!!

ドン

WHU

MP!

YANK

SNAP! !!

SHHHHHHK

A-A-A-AGOTT?! HOW ARE YOUR SYLPH SHOES SO FAST?!

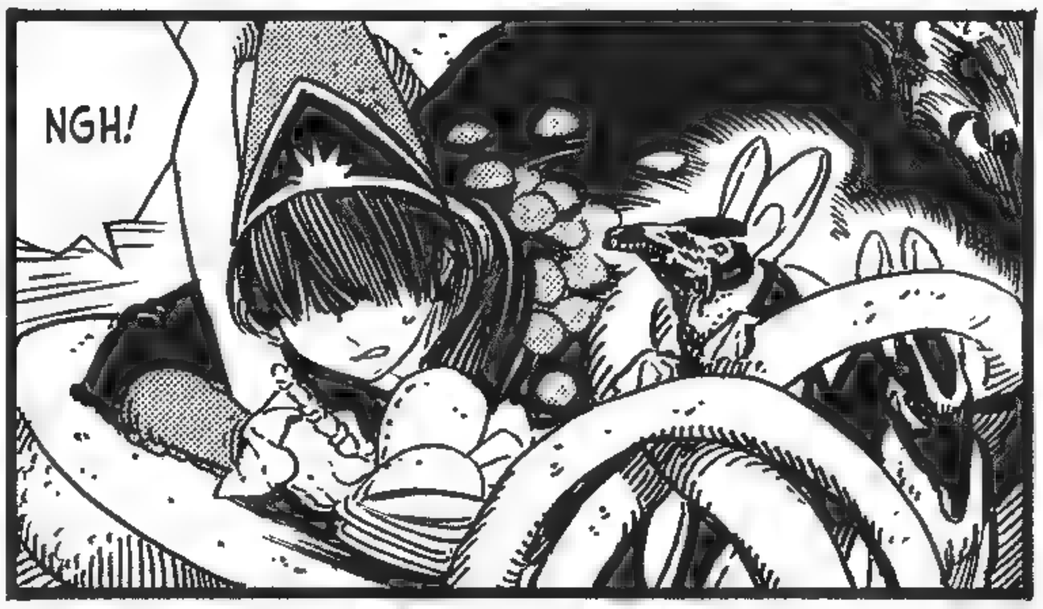
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT ANOTHER TIME!

KEEP THE WAY AHEAD FROZEN!

G-GOT IT!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH! WE NEED TO GO FASTER!
USE WIND MAGIC TO PUSH FROM BEHIND!

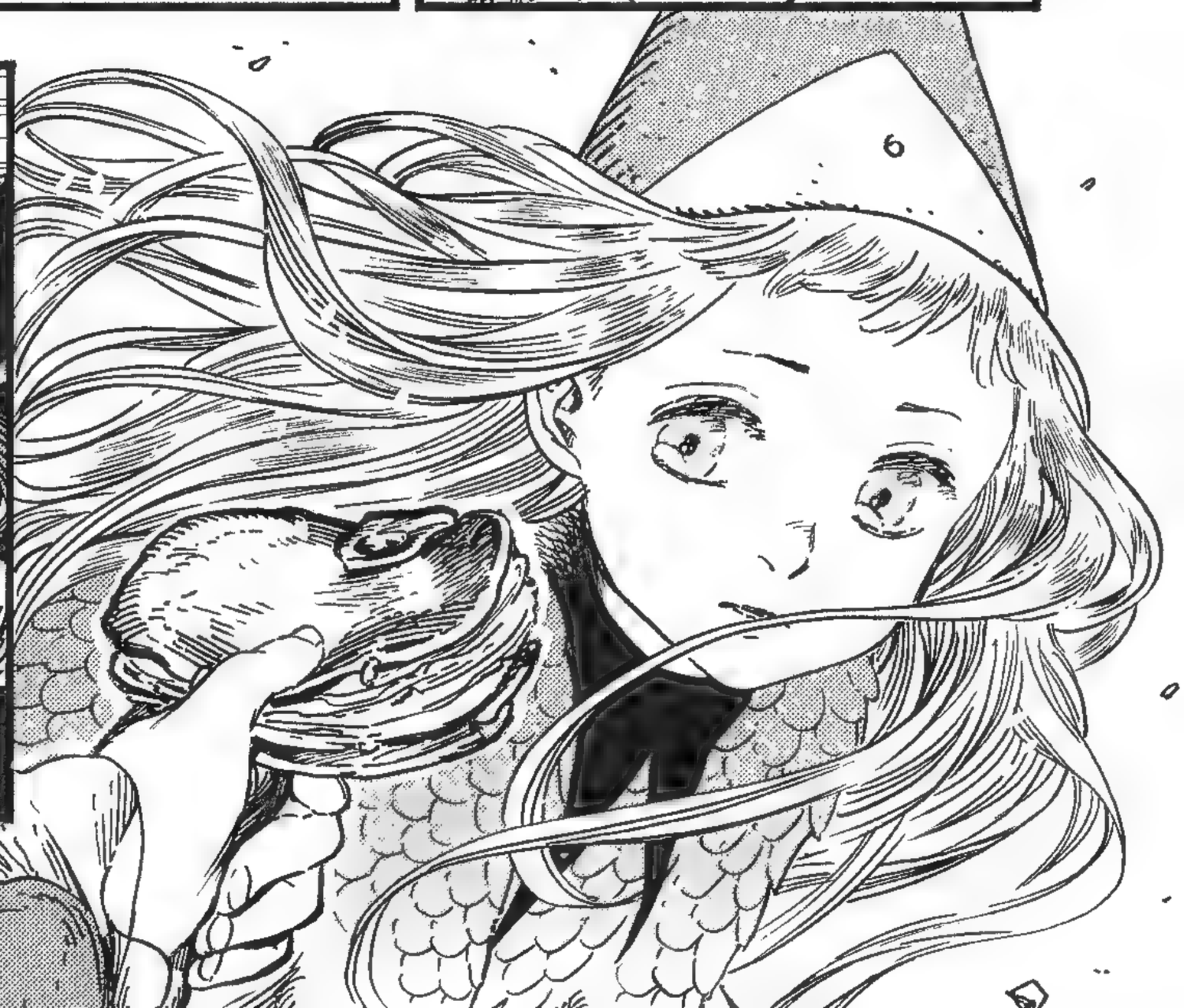
KRSHN
KRSHN
KRSHN


NGH!

...MANY SPELLS OTHER THAN MY OWN.

BUT ...
I...
I DON'T KNOW...

U-USE MINE!



IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PATHETIC...

...BUT I'M GLAD NOW THAT I DREW THESE AHEAD OF TIME.

THEY'LL HELP YOU OUT!

GASP!

WHY DID I GET DRAGGED —

...GOT MY CHANCE TO TAKE THE TEST?!

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN WHEN I FINALLY...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT MERE **STUDENTS** WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN THIS MUCH DANGER OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

THAT TIME WE WERE RUNNING FROM THE DRAGON.

TETIA SAID THE SAME THING.

AND IT'S NOT US...

THERE'S A REASON THE BRIMMED CAPS KEEP SHOWING UP.

FWAH

SKRT AGOTT?!

SKRT SKRT SKRT SKRT SKRT SKRT SKRT

!! FW IP! !!

THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ISN'T WITH US!

SH

IL

IL

WOW

IL

YOU WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING BY CHASING US!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE KNIGHTS MORALIS WERE THERE THAT DAY?!

!

THEY ERASED HER MEMORIES, THEN SENT HER BACK TO HER VILLAGE!

...IN OUR ATELIER!!

TH-

THERE'S NO LONGER AN OUT-SIDER...

LONG HAVE THE POINTED CAPS PLAGUED THE WORLD WITH THEIR FALSEHOODS.

ONLY FITTING THAT THEIR STUDENT, TOO, SHOULD BE SO DEFT A LIAR.

THE WAY'S BLOCKED BY ICE!

!

AGOTT!!

AGOTT!

AGOTT!

LADEN WITH TRANSGRES-SIONS ARE THE POINTED CAPS OF THE PAST...

...AND THE ONES OF TODAY ARE FEEBLE, TOO AFRAID TO GRASP AT TRUE POWER.

SO PITIFUL.

WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE...

...CONJURING INK?!

6

110 PLNK

THANKS TO THEM...

...YOU LANGUISH IN THE CONFINES OF THEIR PETTY, CONSTRICTING RULES.

TELL ME, DO YOU NOT HARBOR SOME GREAT DESIRE?

THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS ARE YOUR SAVIOR.

OR TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN REMAIN A CHILD FOREVER?

HAVE YOU NOT WISHED TO HURRY YOUR GROWTH?

(NO...)

IN THE WORLD OF THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS, YOUR PERFECT SELF IS WITHIN REACH...

TO HAVE CONFIDENCE TO DRAW WITHOUT SECRETING YOURSELF AWAY?

FLOAT

IT ALLOWED *ME* TO SHED MY WEARISOME PHYSICAL HUSK.

BE FREE TO ROAM WHEREVER YOU WISH.

SOAR THE SKIES WITHOUT NEED FOR SHOES.

IN TIME, THE WORLD WILL RECALL...

...WHICH TYPE OF HAT...

...A WITCH IS MEANT TO DON.

AGOTT!!

GRK...

NGH ...!

AND TO DO SO, SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.

...THAT DAY ARRIVE A LITTLE SOONER.

WE MERELY WISH TO SEE...

WHEN HARM BEFALLS HER PRECIOUS FRIEND, SO READY TO SPIN LIES ON HER BEHALF...

...WILL SHE REFRAIN FROM GRASPING THE MIRACLE MAGIC OFFERS?

WHEN THE TOOLS TO SAVE YOU ARE BEFORE HER EYES, WILL SHE BE ABLE TO REFUSE?

CHILDREN LEARN AND GROW BY FACING TESTS THEY'D RATHER AVOID.

THIS IS MY TEST FOR HER.

YOU WILL SERVE...

...AS AN EXCELLENT LESSON.

Witch Hat Atelier

AS YET I HAVE NO NAME.

I AM A BRUSH-BUDDY.

Bonus Chapter

...AND AS MOST BRUSHBUDDIES ARE...

...WAS RAISED AMONG ALL THE BOUNTY OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

I WAS BORN OF A TYPICAL BRUSHBUDDY MOTHER AND A TYPICAL BRUSHBUDDY FATHER...

...I HAPPENED ACROSS A MOST PECULIAR CREATURE KNOWN AS A "WITCH."

AROUND THE TIME MY SPLENDID AND BEAUTIFUL TAIL HAD GROWN TO A PROPER LENGTH...

...THEY LET OUT A SUDDEN, STRANGE CRY AND THROW THEMSELVES TO THE FLOOR.

FLOMP

HOUR AFTER HOUR, THEY SIT BEFORE DESKS DRAWING THEIR "MAGIC." AND JUST WHEN YOU THINK THEY COULD SIT THERE NO MORE...

THESE CREATURES LEAD A VERY CURIOUS LIFE.

Nghh...

Augh...

FFS SFF FFS

IT IS **QUITE** UN-PLEASANT.

THIS ONE OFT PLUNGES ITS NOSE INTO MY GORGEOUS FUR AND BEGINS TO INHALE.

WHERE'S MY FLUFFY SQUISHY?

FWOMP

MY SQUISHY ...

3.5 FLOMP

SFF FFS SFF FFS SFF

NO! BAD BRUSHBUDDY! NO SLEEPING ON TOP OF SPELLS I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF DRAWING!

FWAP ボラーン

FWAP ボラーン

HMPH.

LUCKY THEY ARE THAT AN OPEN-MINDED BRUSHBUDDY SUCH AS I HAS DEIGNED TO TOLERATE LIFE ALONGSIDE THEM.

YET, IT IS THESE SAME CREATURES WHO POSSESS A SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS "INK," WHICH I MUST ADMIT I FIND QUITE ALLURING.

THEIR UNFATHOMABLE BEHAVIOR EXTENDS FURTHER.

C'MON, BRUSH-BUDDY! HURRY!

THERE!

IT'S FINISHED!

YOUR NEST WAS ALL RAINY WET. YOU MUST'VE BEEN COLD.

STAY ON TOP OF THIS RAINFLINGER SEAL, AND YOU WON'T GET WET ANYMORE.

Sorry to trouble you.

We owe you one!

HERE YOU ARE.

ZSSHHH

ZSSHHH

IT IS QUITE MYSTE-RIOUS.

Coco! Come along now!!

Glad they're all right.

THE SPELLS THEY SPEND HOUR AFTER HOUR COMPOSING IN FRONT OF THEIR DESKS...

...ARE IN THE END USED TO THE BENEFIT OF OTHER CREATURES.

YET, IT IS THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE THAT BRING THE GREATEST FASCINATION.

ACK! MY HAT! MY *WITCH* HAT!

SMEEEAR

Brush-buddy!!

AS FOR THE TITLE, I THINK I SHALL CALL IT...

PERHAPS IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO COMPOSE A DETAILED RECORD...

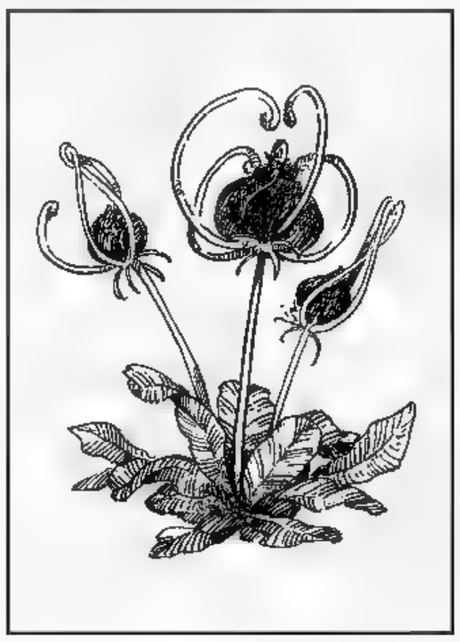
...FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THESE PECULIAR CREATURES KNOWN AS "WITCHES."

Witch Hat Atelier

THE PLANTS OF WITCH HAT

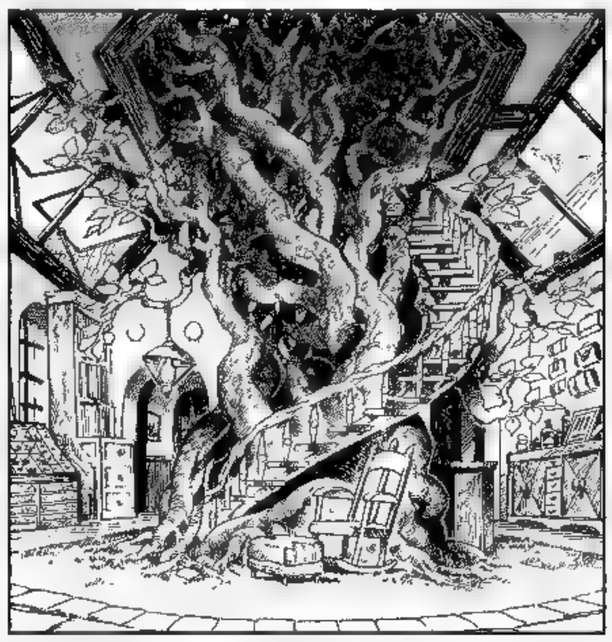
DIADEM HERB
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 3

FOUND ONLY ON THE DADAH RANGE, A GROUP OF MOUNTAINS THAT NOW FLOAT IN THE SKY DUE TO AN ANCIENT, FORBIDDEN SPELL. THE PLANT'S NAME COMES FROM ITS CROWN-LIKE APPEARANCE. THOSE WHO WISH TO BECOME APPRENTICES ARE REQUIRED TO HARVEST THIS HERB, AN ACT SYMBOLIC OF THE PUNISHMENT METED OUT TO THE KING OF DADAH, WHO RAISED THE MOUNTAINS INTO THE SKY MERELY TO SEE HIS CROWN STAND ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

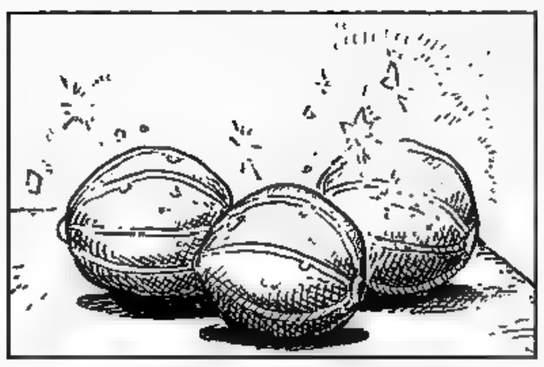


SILVERWOOD TREE
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 5

NECESSARY IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONJURING INK, THE SUBSTANCE USED TO DRAW CASTING SEALS. ITS BRANCHES POSSESS A SILVER SHEEN WHILE ALIVE, BUT UPON WITHERING, THEY TURN PITCH BLACK. FROM THESE DEAD BRANCHES, A SOLUTION KNOWN AS WOODCRUOR IS EXTRACTED, WHICH IS IN TURN REFINED INTO INK. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, A SILVERWOOD ONCE FELL IN LOVE WITH A WITCH AND OFFERED UP ITS BLOOD AS INK AND BRANCHES AS WANDS.



CARAPACE YAM
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 8



A TYPE OF TUBER COVERED BY AN UNUSUALLY TOUGH OUTER LAYER. COOKED SLOWLY OVER AN APPROPRIATELY-SIZED FLAME, IT YIELDS A DELICIOUS, PIPING-HOT TREAT.

HONEYTREE
APPEARS IN THE *MORNING TWO* 10TH ANNIVERSARY ANTHOLOGY, "EATING"

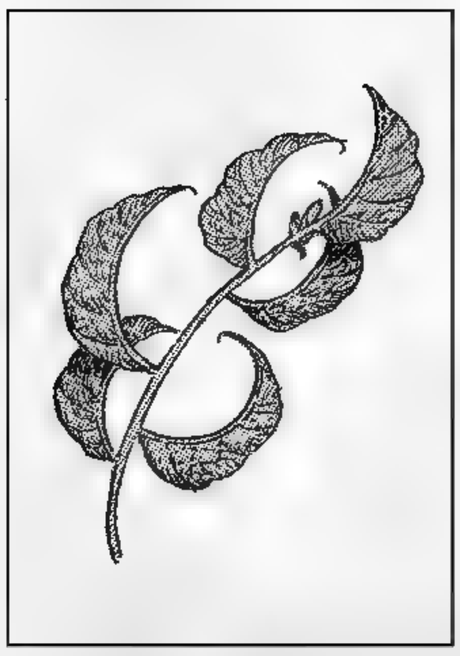
SNAPPING OPEN THE SWELLING BULGES OF THIS TREE'S BRANCHES WILL REVEAL LARGE QUANTITIES OF A SWEET, HONEY-LIKE SUBSTANCE PACKED INSIDE. USED AS AN INGREDIENT IN SWEETS AND LIQUEURS.

MOUNTAIN APPLE
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 14

A LOW, SHRUB-LIKE TREE ABLE TO TAKE ROOT IN THE SMALL GAPS OF EVEN THE ROCKIEST AND MOST RUGGED TERRAIN. THE FRUIT IT BEARS IS TART LIKE AN APPLE YET SOFT LIKE A PEAR. AS IT RIPENS, ITS COLOR TYPICALLY TURNS FROM GREEN TO YELLOW. RED FRUIT MAY BE ENCOUNTERED ON OCCASION, BUT SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AS IT IS POISONOUS.

TRANQUILEAF
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 16

THIS HERB'S LEAVES FUNCTION AS A DISINFECTANT WHEN DIRECTLY APPLIED TO WOUNDS, AND WHEN DRIED AND GROUND TO POWDER, THEY ALSO SERVE AS MEDICATION TO REDUCE FEVER AND SUPPRESS COUGHING. THIS WAS THE SAME HERB CHEWED BY QIFREY IN CHAPTER 15 WHEN ASCERTAINING THAT THE NUMBNESS IN HIS LIMB HAD SUBSIDED. BASED ON HIS EXPRESSION IN THAT SCENE, IT MAY BE SURMISED THAT TRANQUILEAF HAS A PARTICULARLY BITTER TASTE.



With her teacher gravely injured, and the dear friends with whom she shares her aspirations in imminent danger...

...Coco's desire to help grows. And as it does...

...THE TEMPTATION...

...OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC LOOMS LARGE.

VOLUME 5: SCHEDULED FOR SALE IN SPRING 2020!!

Witch Hat Atelier 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Chapter 23

YOU WILL SERVE...

...AS AN EXCELLENT LESSON.

FRSH!

NO. DON'T TELL ME HE'S...

"...TATTOO SEALS ONTO THEIR OWN SKIN."

"ON OCCASION, THE BRIMMED CAPS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO..."

SHHK

OW!

TO HAVE FORBIDDEN MAGIC INSCRIBED ON ONE'S OWN BODY...

...IS AN OFFENSE MOST GRAVE, EVEN IF THE SEAL WAS AFFIXED AGAINST ONE'S WILL.

NO! STOP!

I REFUSE TO LOSE EVERYTHING TO *THIS!!!*

I STILL HAVEN'T PROVEN MYSELF TO—

—OTT!!

AG—

FWISH

...YOU FALL!!

ヒュー

FWSH

FWSH

ヒュー

FWSH

ヒュー

FWSH

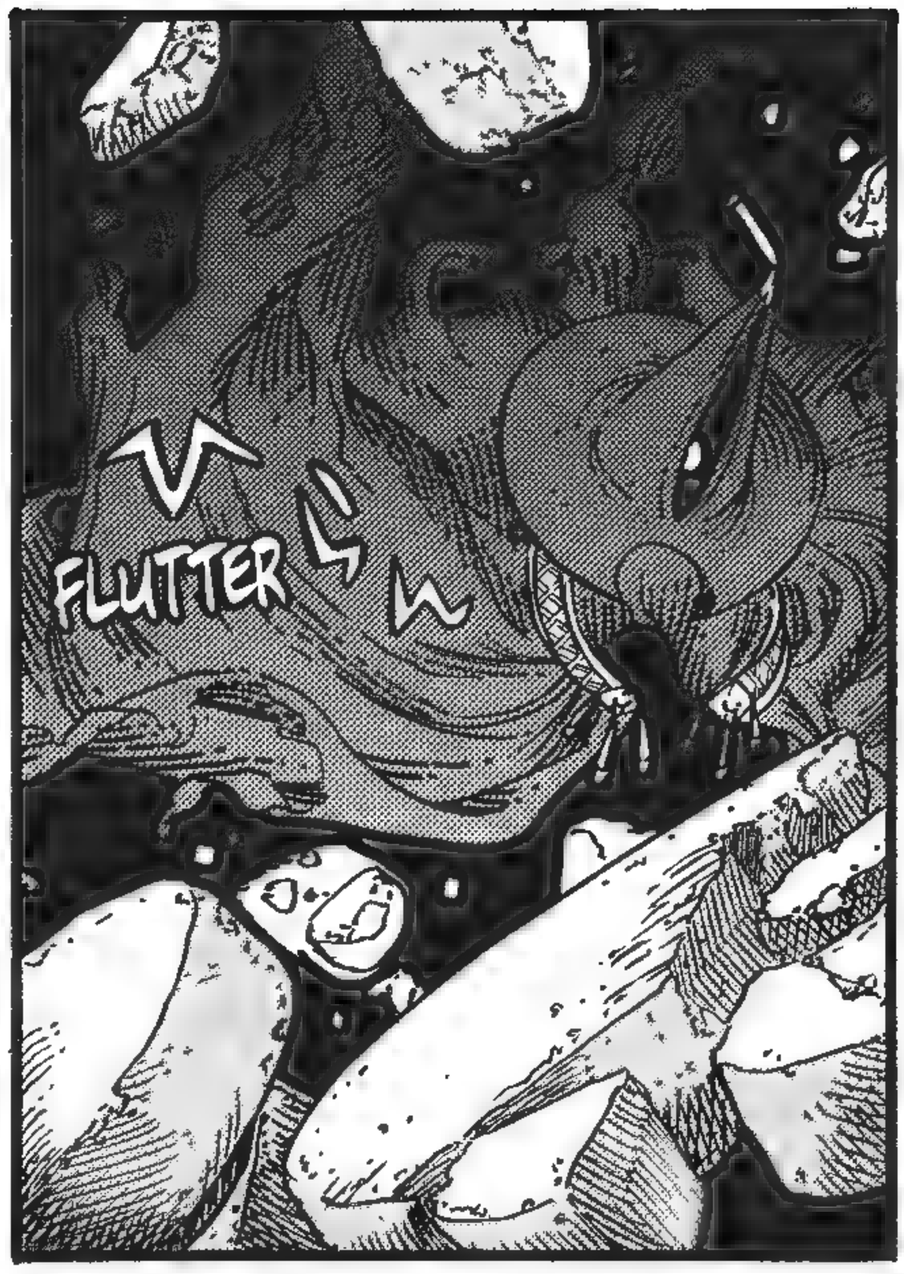
GRAB THIS...

...IN CASE...

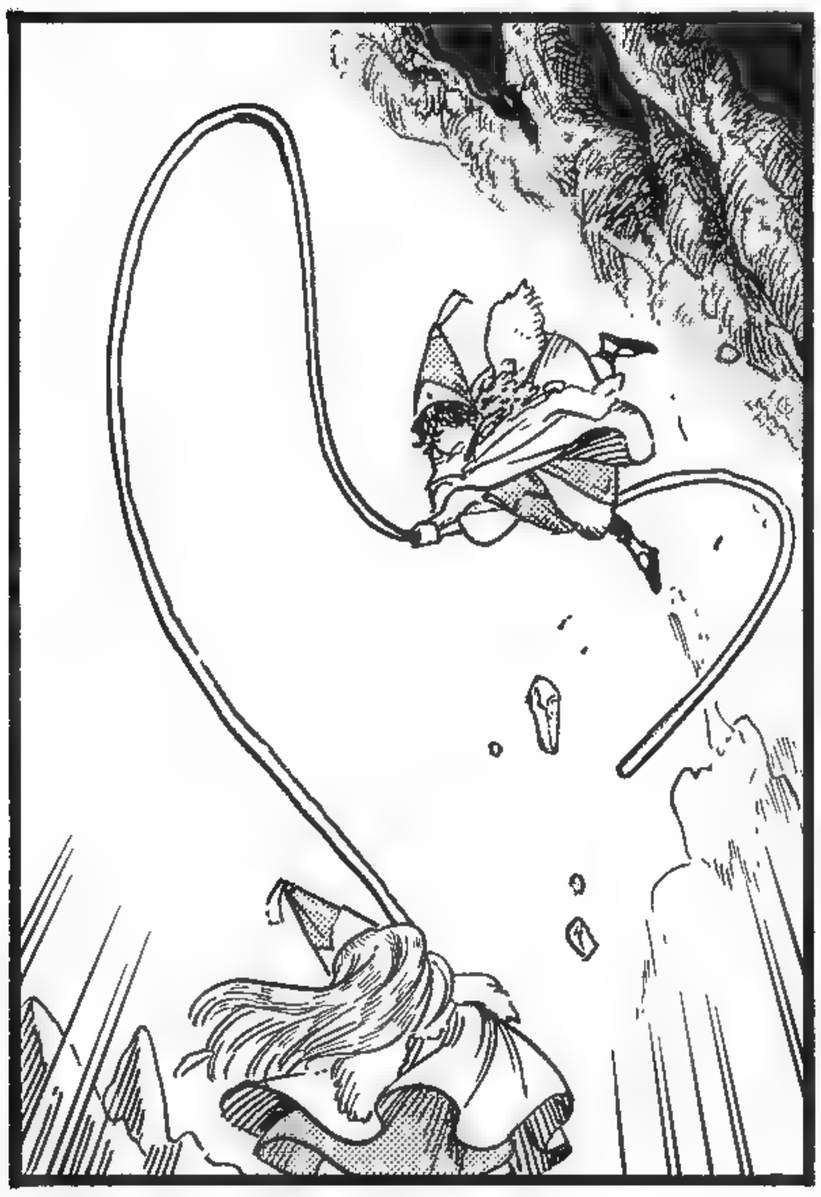
IN CASE I *FALL?!*

SLIP

KRKRSHK


FLUTTER

ASP
CL



TUG

THAT EXPLOSION JUST NOW! WHAT WAS IT?!

FWIP!!

WHUMP!

EUINI TOOK OUT A SECTION OF THE ROAD FROM BELOW.

B-BUT THAT WITCH...

SO WE DECIDED TO SWEEP THE ROAD OUT FROM UNDER-NEATH HIS FEET.

IF YOU LEAVE THE PATH, YOU GET SUCKED INTO THE CAVE'S MAZE.

THAT BRIMMED CAP...

...HAS BEEN *FLOATING AROUND* THIS WHOLE TIME!

6

...ENDED UP DOING SO MUCH FOR US.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMETHING MEANT TO COMPENSATE FOR MY SHORT-COMINGS...

CRMBL

CRMBL

LOOKS LIKE WE SAVED AGOTT.

THE WHOLE PLAN WORKED OUT GREAT.

...TO HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF *CONFIDENCE!*

I'M STARTING TO FEEL HAPPY...

...LIKE I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE...

I'M NOT AS HOPELESS AS YOU ALWAYS SAID I WAS!

MASTER, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!

IT TURNS OUT I'M NOT AS HOPELESS AS I THOUGHT!

...MIGHT BE THE KEY THAT LEADS TO THINGS THAT ONLY *I* CAN DO.

...BUT THE FACT THAT I CAN'T DO THE SAME THINGS AS EVERYONE ELSE...

MY MASTER MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ...

!!

IT MOST CERTAINLY WILL BE.

LUNGE

IF ONLY YOU'D EMBRACED YOUR SKILL. IF ONLY YOU'D REMAINED COWERING IN THE SHADOWS.

I MIGHT HAVE SEEN FIT TO LEAVE YOU BE.

BUT FOR ONE WHO WRAPS HIMSELF IN SHADOWS, YOU SEEM FAR TOO *LACKING* IN GLOOM.

NO!

HELP M—

...ALLOW ME TO BESTOW UPON YOU A FORM YOU'LL BE *ANXIOUS TO CONCEAL.*

SINCE YOU'RE SO IN LOVE WITH *HIDING...*

...

THAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT AT ALL.

...SHOULD BE PULLED AWAY BY THE ANCIENT ROMONON MAGIC.

IF YOU LOSE CONTACT WITH THE ROAD...

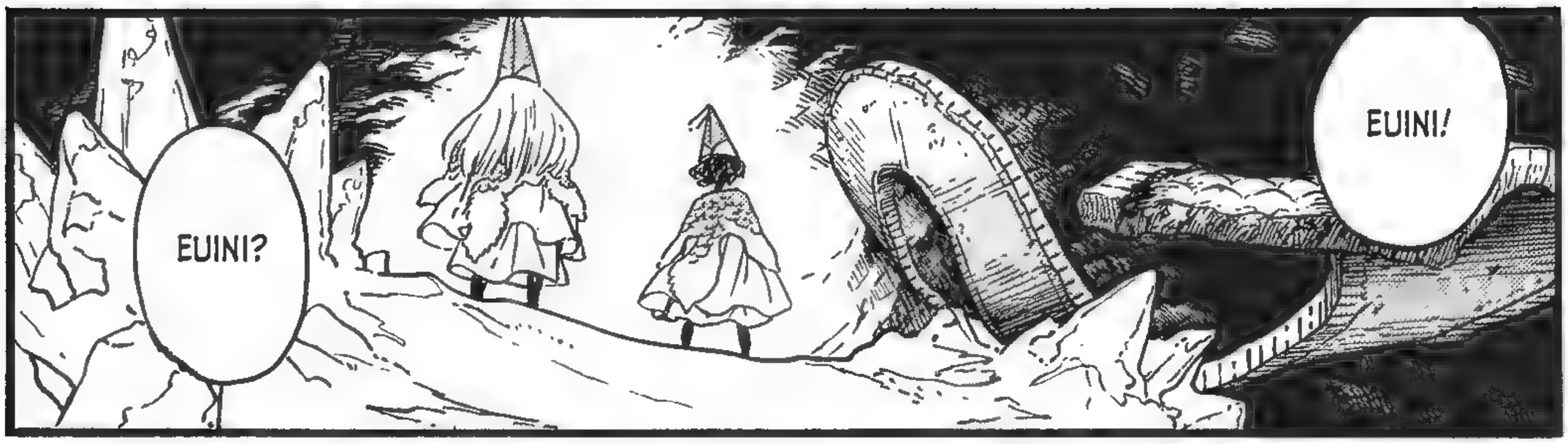
...ANY PERSON... EVEN ANY *SPELL*...

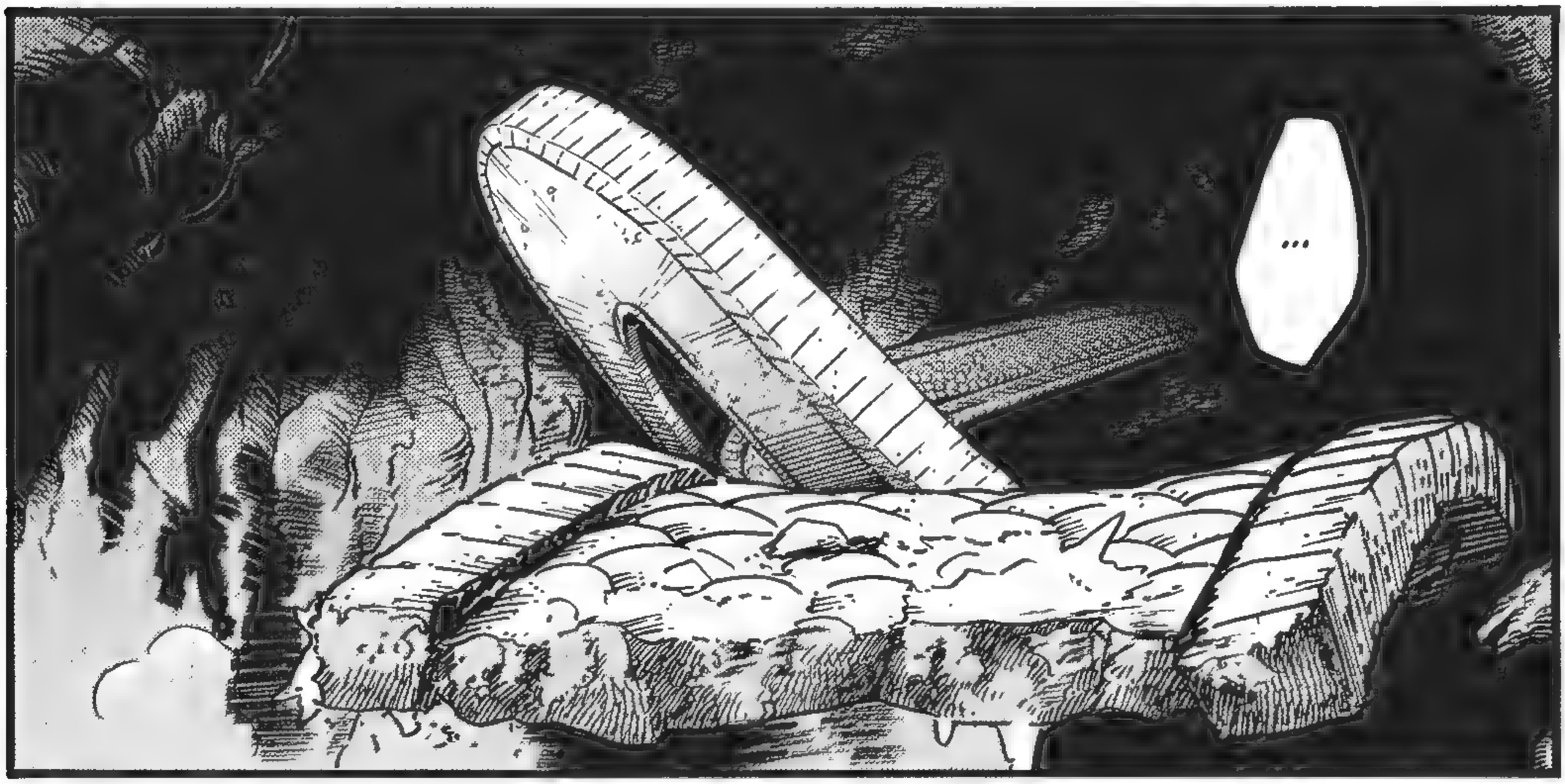
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO MASTER QIFREY!

HURRY! CALL EUINI BACK UP HERE!

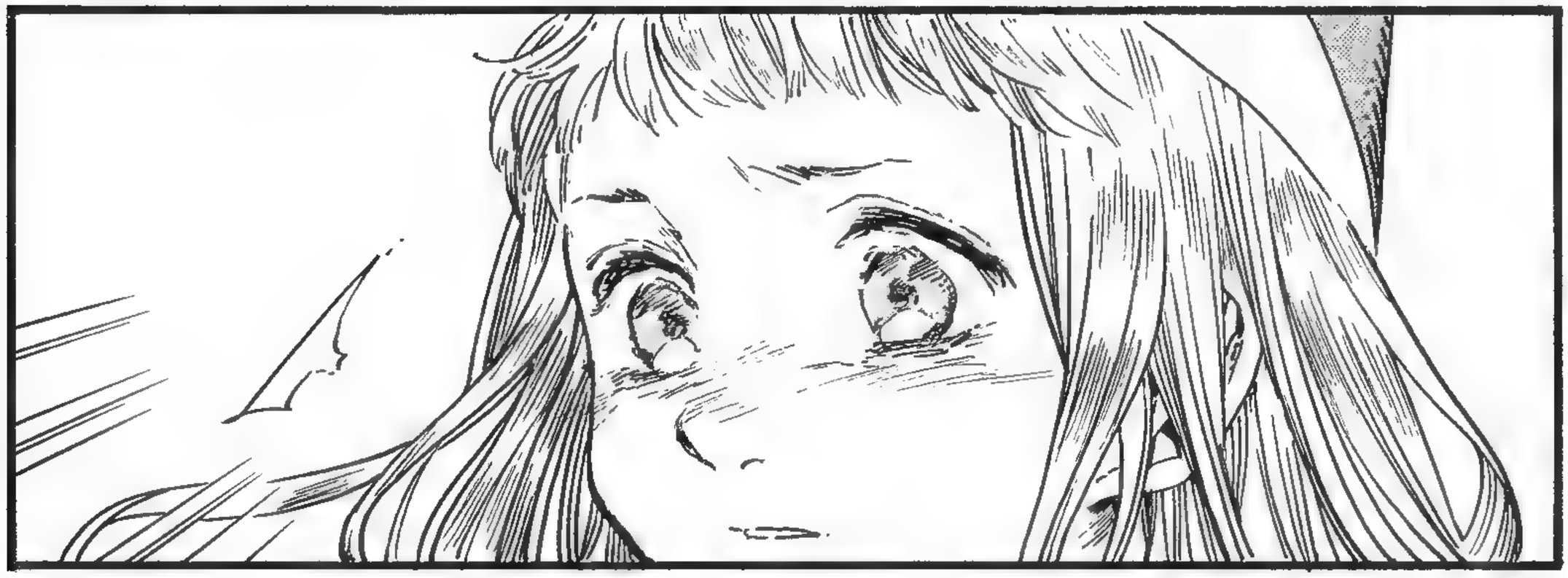
...THEN WE'RE STILL IN BIG TROUBLE!

IF THAT BRIMMED CAP ISN'T AFFECTED...


EUINI?
EUINI!


...

SLINK
COME ON, EUINI! WE NEED TO HURRY!
EUINI? ARE YOU THERE?



AHHG-
GHH...

PLEASE. HELP MEEE...

AGO-OOTT ...

RIII-CHEEH...

BRK

BRK

I...

BR-

KRK

I'M...

I'M FADING ...

HREE—...

HREE—...

ビク
FLINCH

WAIT!

A-/
TMP

EUINI...

EU...

!

THE BRIMMED CAP! HE'S BACK!

RICHEH! LOOK!

AGOTT! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?! EUINI'S—

YOU *FIEND!*

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WE CAN ONLY DISCOVER BY CASTING!

UNDER-STANDING OF THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS HAS WANED TERRIBLY SINCE THEY WERE LOST.

FASCINAT-ING!

TO THINK THAT THE SCALEWOLF FUR FROM HIS CLOAK SHOULD GET TANGLED UP IN THE SPELL!

TURN EUINI BACK TO NORMAL!

ENOUGH WITH YOUR GARBAGE!

IT DIDN'T GO EXACTLY AS I'D PLANNED...

...BUT HE'LL SERVE WELL ENOUGH.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP HIM, BY ALL MEANS BE MY GUEST.

MAGIC HAS THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR DESIRES COME TRUE.

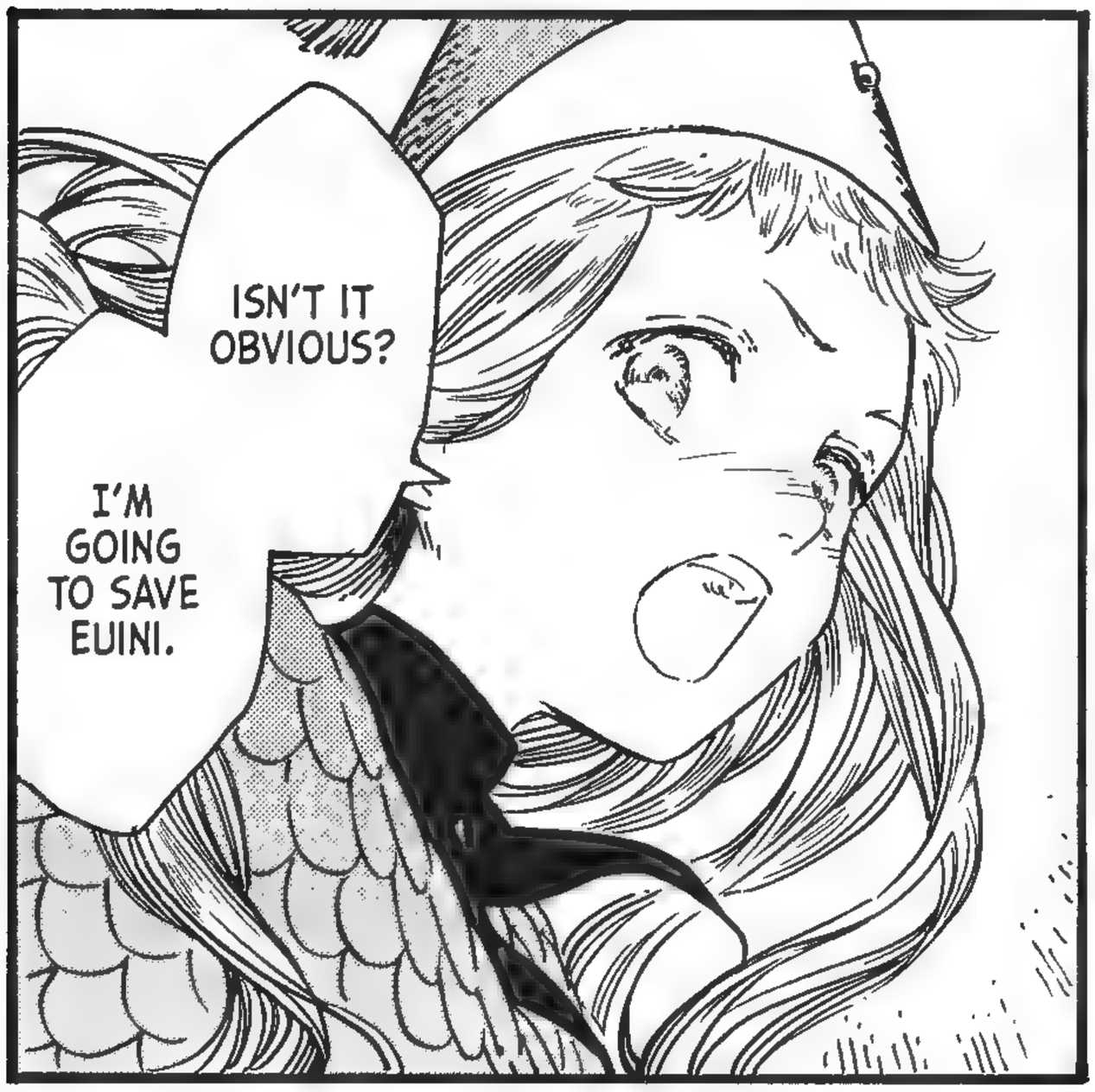
THE REST IS UP TO EACH OF YOU.

SHIWOOM

クルッ!!
WHIRL

HE'S GONE AGAIN...

GRAB!


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I'M GOING TO SAVE EUINI.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, RICHEH?!

I DON'T LIKE...

...HAVING TO DO THINGS I DON'T WANT TO DO...

...BUT ABANDONING A FRIEND IS EVEN WORSE!

OF COURSE ...

...I AGREE.

BUT WE'VE GOT A RESPONSI-BILITY.

DO YOU DISAGREE?

YANK

AND ONE OF US NEEDS TO WARN THE ADULTS.

THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MISS ALAIRA, AND ABOUT EUINI.

CLENCH

WE HAVE TO AT LEAST SEE THEM TO THE REST OF THEIR FLOCK. IT'S NOT EVEN A MATTER OF THE TEST ANYMORE.

WHAT ABOUT THE MYRPHON? ARE WE GOING TO JUST LEAVE THEM TREMBLING?

LET'S SPLIT UP.

YOU TAKE THE MYRPHON AND HEAD TOWARD THE EXIT.

I'LL GO AFTER EUINI.

THE MAGIC YOU'VE STUDIED IS BIASED TOWARD THE KINDS OF SPELLS YOU LIKE.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE BREADTH TO RESPOND TO UNEXPECTED DEVELOP-MENTS.

I KNOW MORE SPELLS THAN YOU. I CAN RESPOND TO MORE SITUATIONS.

WHY DO *YOU* GET TO BE THE ONE TO—

NO! *I* WANT TO HELP HIM!

LUNGE!

...BUT YOU WOULDN'T BE ANY HELP TO EUINI THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.

I KNOW IT'S TOUGH TO HEAR...

PLUCK

...
KHO
OOO

PWEE
...

PWEEE!

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

HUH ...?

BRUSH-BUDDY?

PWEE!

PWEE!

PWEEE!

FWAP

FWAP

FWAP

THE SERPENT GATE ATTACKED US...

WHAT HAPPENED ...?

...

...THE GROUND CRUMBLED, AND THEN...

MASTER QIFREY! TETIA!

SHAKE ゆさ

SHAKE ゆさ

WAKE UP! BOTH OF YOU!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SPELL THAT WAS, BUT...

...MASTER QIFREY PROTECTED US.

HIS GLASSES ARE BROKEN, AND HIS FACE IS COVERED IN BLOOD...

MASTER'S HURT.

UM...

I-I'M SORRY...

SWAT

!!

YOUR GLASSES ARE CRACKED.

I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT GET CUT, SO I...

SHH!

CLASP

WE'RE NOT ALONE.

QUIET.

WITCH...

STANDETH HERE A WITCH...

ODIOUS WITCH. WITCH MOST VILE...

AKIN TO THE WITCH WHO OUR BODIES DID WARP...

TURNED TO GOLD YET STILL ALIVE.

ANCIENTS... FROM THE NATION OF ROMONON.

HFF!

DRIP

INDEED.

M-MASTER, ARE THOSE WHAT I THINK THEY ARE?

YOUR BACK AND YOUR ARM LOOK BADLY HURT...

GAH ...!

SLUMP

...A MASTER'S DUTY, AFTER ALL.

THAT IS...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO SAVE US...

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN CAST LIKE THIS.

SHF

WORRY NOT. I WILL PROTECT YOU.

SO LISTEN CAREFULLY. BOTH OF YOU.
YOU MUST NOT LEAVE MY SIDE.
NO MATTER WHAT.

Witch Hat Atelier